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GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

OCTOBER 2013

How to create GARDEN ROOMS

SPRING BULB COMBINATIONS to plant now

WEEKENDS FOR GARDENERS
what to see in Amsterdam

Crazy for daisies

Plant expert Noël Kingsbury chooses his favourites

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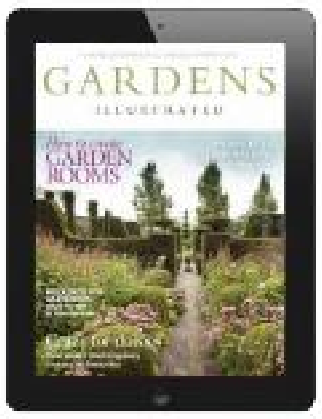
editor's letter

I often hanker after a much bigger garden. In my dreams I have about an acre or so, but I also find myself wondering how I'd actually manage such a space in terms of design and maintenance. It's great to hear about lessons learned from other gardeners and I find the feature on Tuinzondernaam in the Netherlands very heartening. The owner Frank Thuyls freely admits that while he and his late partner Pierre began with great enthusiasm, unfortunately the garden evolved into a bit of a mess. After a eureka moment, they took the bold step of ripping everything out and starting again, this time creating ten formal garden rooms, each with a distinct personality and colour scheme. This half-acre garden is a masterpiece in the clever use of space with carefully constructed sightlines and well-placed garden ornaments. Planning ahead is key to good gardening and this issue Arne Maynard looks forward to spring, offering excellent advice and personal insights into what bulbs to plant now to ensure stylish, long-lasting displays. To make life easier, we've set up an exclusive offer on selected bulbs with supplier Peter Nyssen (see page 100). We also visit Special Plants nursery, where owner Derry Watkins stays one step ahead of the game with regular trips abroad to track down new and interesting varieties. With so many beautiful plants and design ideas to play with, I think I really do need more space. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Juliet



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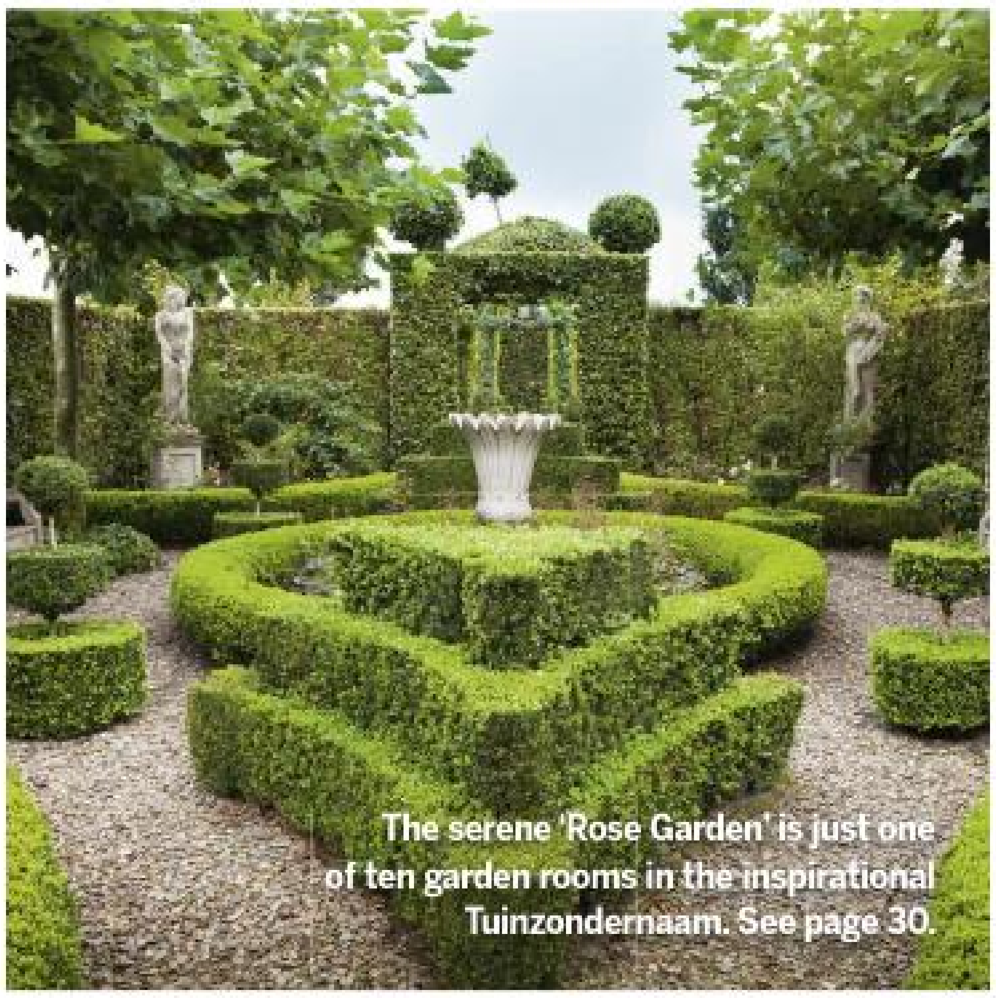

The serene 'Rose Garden' is just one of ten garden rooms in the inspirational Tuinzondernaam. See page 30.

Plant textures and shapes galore can be found at the wonderful Special Plants Nursery. See page 38.

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Plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex.

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SIBYLLE PIETRECK, REBECCA BERNSTEIN

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Sibylle Pietrek

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SIBYLLE PIETREK, SUZIE GIBBONS, MARIANNE MAJERUS, REBECCA BERNSTEIN

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- **An exclusive view of** light installations at Waddesdon Manor with artist Bruce Munro – see page 22
- **Free 30-day trial** when you subscribe to the digital edition of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED – see page 28
- Win a luxury visit to the **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** and Angie Lewin fabrics – see page 87
- Save on **bulbs from Peter Nyssen** and get 20% off **Le Parfait jars** – see page 100

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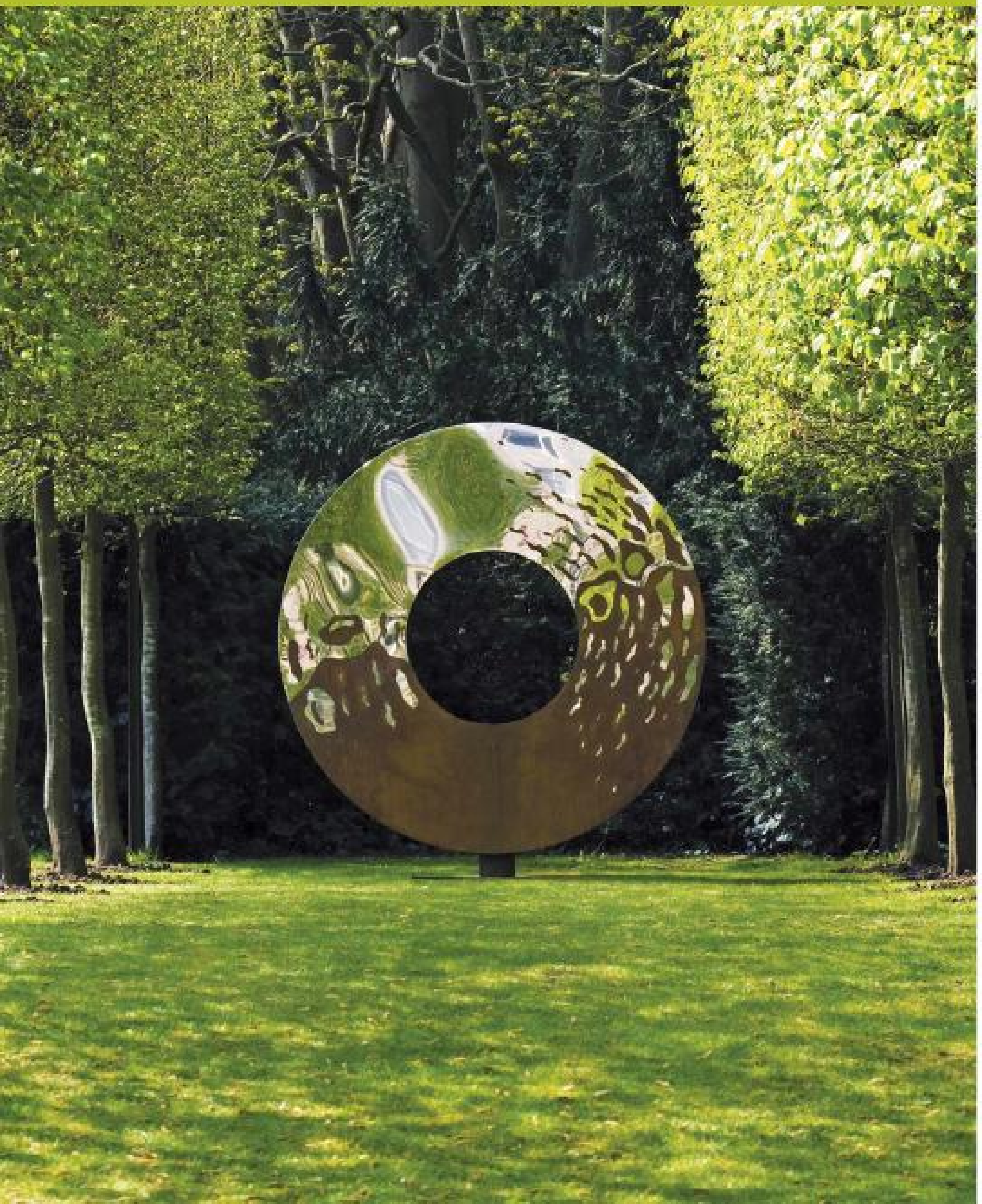

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ABC Jan-Jun 2013 36,221

contributors

REBECCA BERNSTEIN

Rebecca specialises in garden, portrait and food photography, and finds herself spellbound by the colour, light and the atmosphere of the idyllic locations she photographs, including Derry Watkins' beautiful nursery on page 38.

"Derry Watkins' Special Plants Nursery reflects the passion, skill and individuality of its owner."

GEORGE WRIGHT

ANNA PAVORD

Anna has been the gardening correspondent of *The Independent* since the paper was founded in 1986. Her book, *The Tulip*, was an international best-seller. On page 56 she meets the talented and immaculately turned out Alan Street of Avon Bulbs.

"The arrival of the bulbs bought from Avon are the highlights of my gardening year. Alan Street is a consummate plantsman."

BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER

Photographing nature, is one of Britt's passions and she is fortunate to have some beautiful natural landscapes on her doorstep. On page 58 she visits Monmouthshire to bring us Arne Maynard's inspiring combinations of spring bulbs.

"Tulips are truly magical; in the early morning dew they look beautifully sculptural then open to show their glorious colours."

SUZIE GIBBONS

Suzie specialises in garden features for leading publications in the UK and abroad. She feels privileged to photograph such inspirational gardens as Rose Farm Studio on page 64. She has just swapped urban gardening for a new project in rural Sussex.

"It was a joy to photograph Mel and Lizzi's wondrous, ecletic garden, which is full of all my favourite flowers."

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ANNIE GUILFOYLE

Annie Guilfoyle is a garden designer, Director of KLC School of Design and Garden Course Consultant at West Dean. Annie grew up in west Somerset and believes that the stunning landscape and the wonderful gardens of the West Country have shaped her as a designer and indeed continue to play a very large part in her work today. Annie is currently writing the monthly Design Ideas feature for GARDENS ILLUSTRATED.

Somerset is famed as the county of fine ciders, famous cheese, 'withy' plantations and gorgeous summer gardens – indeed the word Somerset means 'land of the summer people'. Our five-day tour will visit a selection of fine gardens and award-winning specialist nurseries. You will be based at **Ston Easton Park**, a superb Palladian mansion nestled within the Mendip Hills and now a four-star country house hotel with fine grounds and award-winning restaurant.

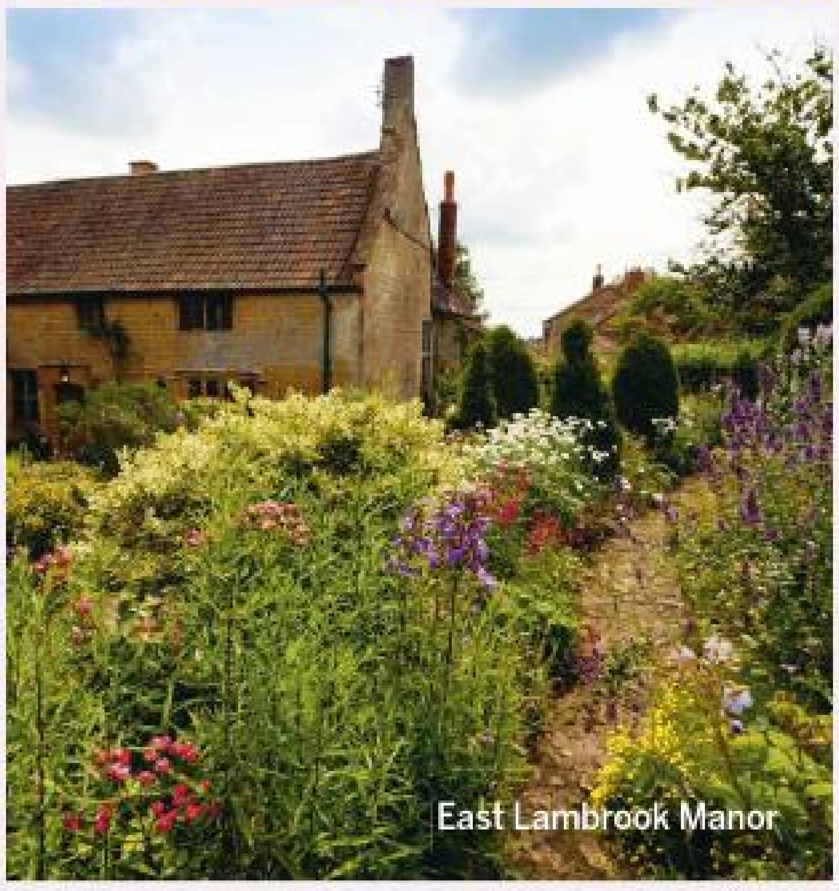
Guests will gather at Bristol Parkway railway station (an easy hour-and-a-half-journey from London Paddington) from where your tour begins. Visits includes **Jekka McVicar's Herboretum**, where famed herb expert Jekka has the largest collection of culinary herbs in the UK, **The Organic Gardens at Holt Farm** surrounded by the rich dairy pastures of the Yeo Valley, and **Lady Farm**, regarded as one of the UK's top gardens with the prairie and steppe-style plantings as particularly striking features. Just across the border into Wiltshire is **Iford Manor** and the Italianate gardens of Harold Peto, one of the greatest Edwardian

EXCLUSIVE READER HOLIDAY

The Botanic Nursery

Hanham Court

Iford Manor


East Lambrook Manor

HOLT FARM & EAST LAMBROOK MANOR: CHRISTOPHER NICHOLSON / ALAMY; THE BOTANICS NURSERY: JASON INGRAM; PHOTOLIBRARY / ALAMY; IFORD MANOR: STEVE TAYLOR ARPS / ALAMY

garden designers. While in Wiltshire we also visit foxglove specialists **The Botanic Nursery** and **Special Plants** where nurserywoman Derry Watkins offers a tempting array of unusual annuals and perennials (see feature on page 38). And then there's the distinguished Arts & Crafts National Trust garden of **The Courts**. Back in Somerset **East Lambrook Manor** is one of the country's definitive cottage gardens, created by the late great plantswoman Margery Fish. Finally, we have the very great pleasure of an invitation from garden designer **Penelope Hobhouse** to see her new Somerset garden.

Plus we'll be visiting some of the area's top eateries for lunch, be given a tour of our hotel's own Victorian kitchen garden by the head gardener at Ston Easton Park, and have free time to visit the shops and galleries of the historic town of Bruton.

This tour has been arranged exclusively for readers of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED by Boxwood Tours, Quality Garden Holidays, a specialist garden tour company set up in 1990, directed by Sue and Brian Macdonald, Kew-trained, professional gardeners.

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BOOKING DETAILS

The price per person sharing is £1,898 (single supplement of £250 levied by the hotel).

The price includes all travel between gardens and lunches plus dinner, bed and breakfast for four nights at Ston Easton Park hotel (wine included with the evening meals). The price does not include extras at the hotel, travel insurance, or travel to and from the start/finish point.

For more information or to book please contact:
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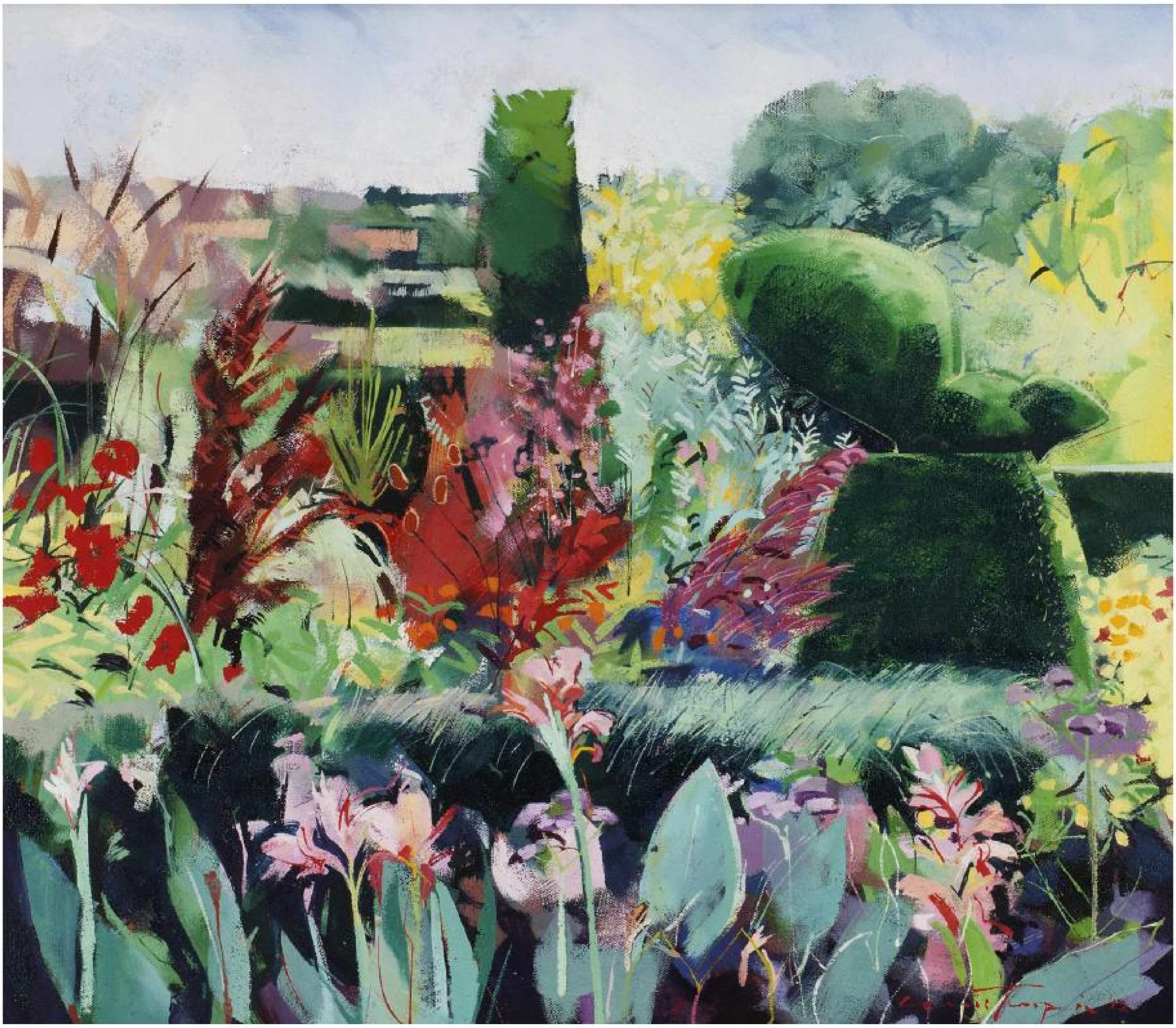
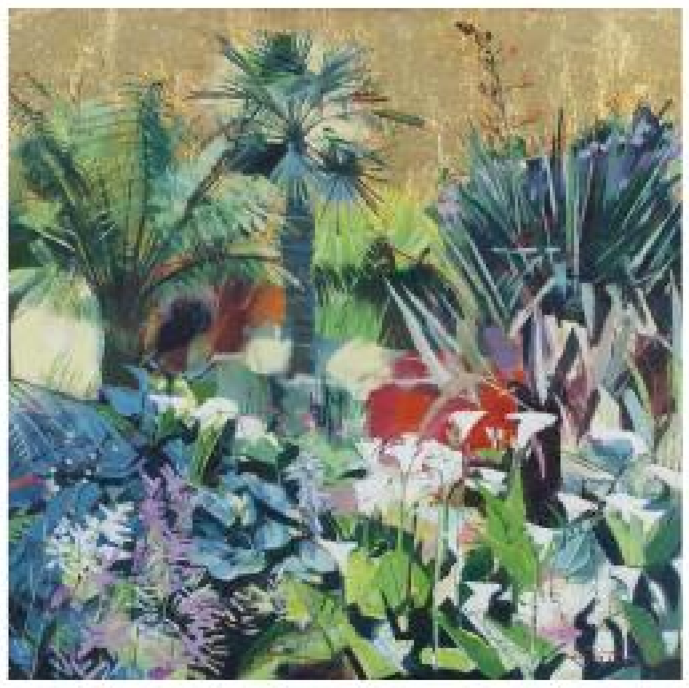
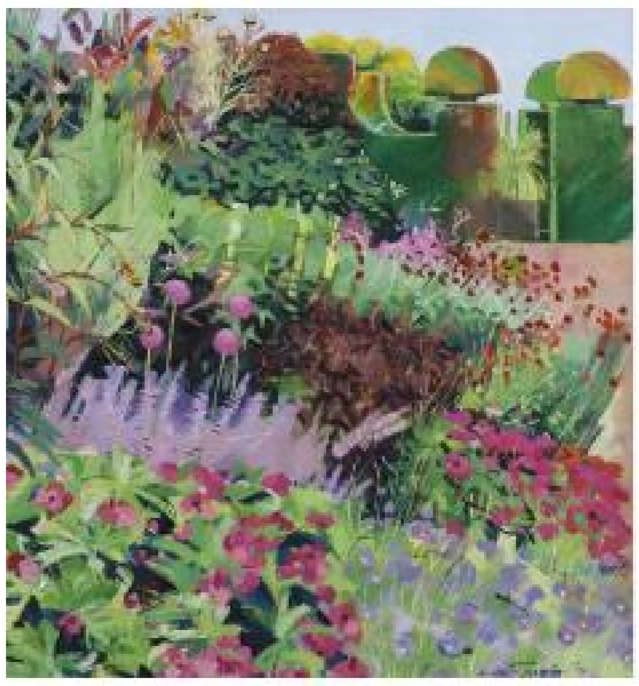




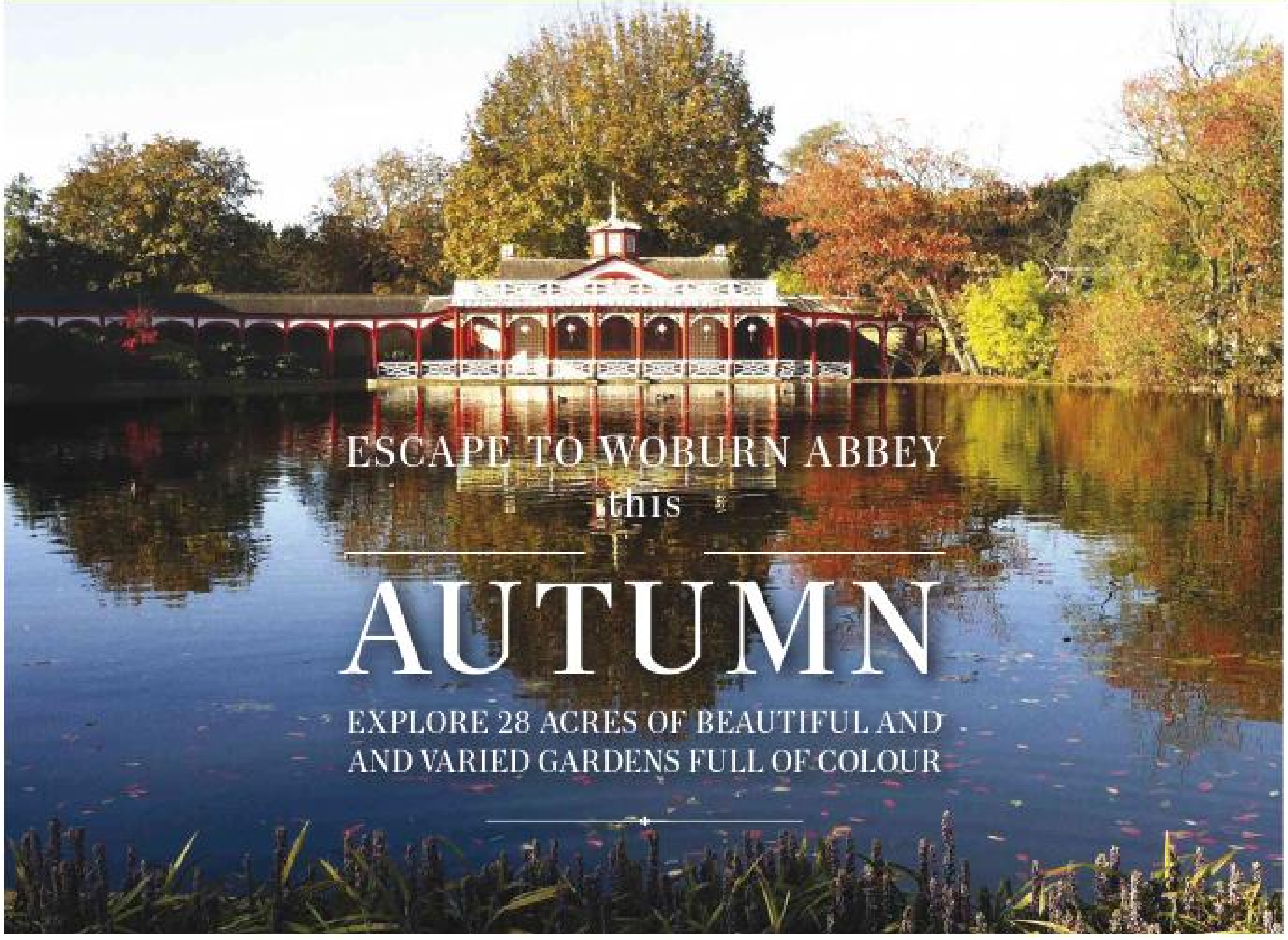


LOUIS TURPIN – THE TOPIARY GARDEN; CORNISH LIGHT; WARM BORDERS

EXHIBITION

A passion for gardens

Leading horticultural artist Louis Turpin is showing a selection of garden paintings in his latest exhibition at the Bohun Gallery in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. His distinctive style focuses on colour and form and lends itself perfectly to capturing both the atmosphere and intricacies of a garden's planting mix, be it a humble allotment or the impressive borders at iconic gardens such as Great Dixter, Newby Hall and Scampston. Until 12 October. bohungallery.co.uk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Jams and pickles

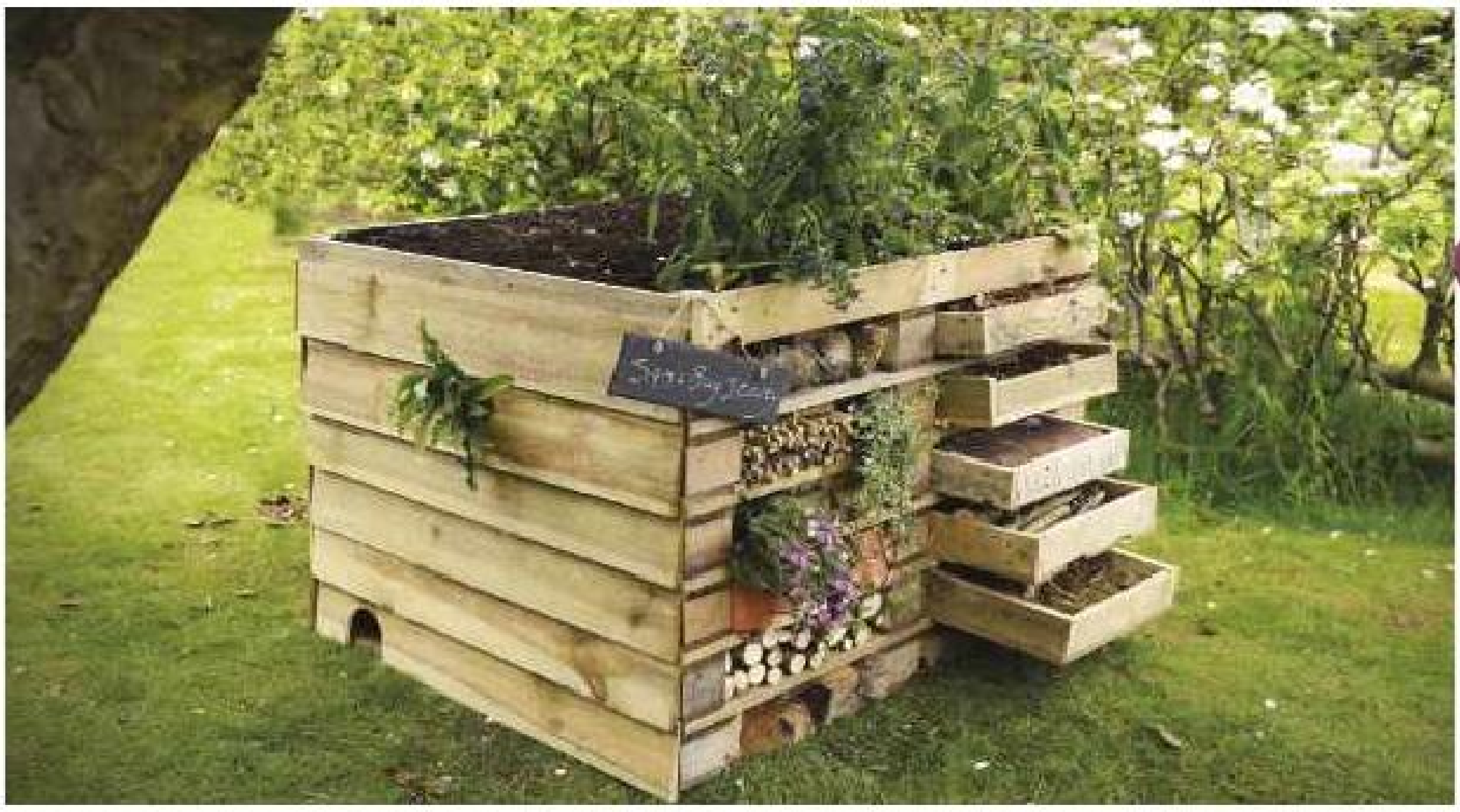
It's proved to be a bumper year on the fruit and vegetable plot, so now is the time to preserve any excess you might have. Urban Veg – a Birmingham-based organisation with the aim of promoting urban food production – is running a course with TV presenter and urban gardening devotee Alys Fowler. You'll discover a range of fermentation and pickling methods that will ensure you bottle the taste of summer for the winter months ahead. 20 October, 10am-4pm, £40. Book on 0121 414 3003, urbanvegwhg.wordpress.com

NOTE see page 101 for our offer on Le Parfait jars – perfect for pickles and preserves.

Snippets – keeping you up to date

SHORTLISTED Garden designer Jinny Blom has been shortlisted for a Woman of the Year award following her Chelsea 2013 garden, which supported vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS in Lesotho. Winners announced this month: womenoftheyear.co.uk

GET YOUR ENTRIES READY The deadline for International Garden Photographer of the Year entries is 31 October. Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to submit images to any of the eight themed categories. Details at igpoty.com



WILDLIFE GARDENING

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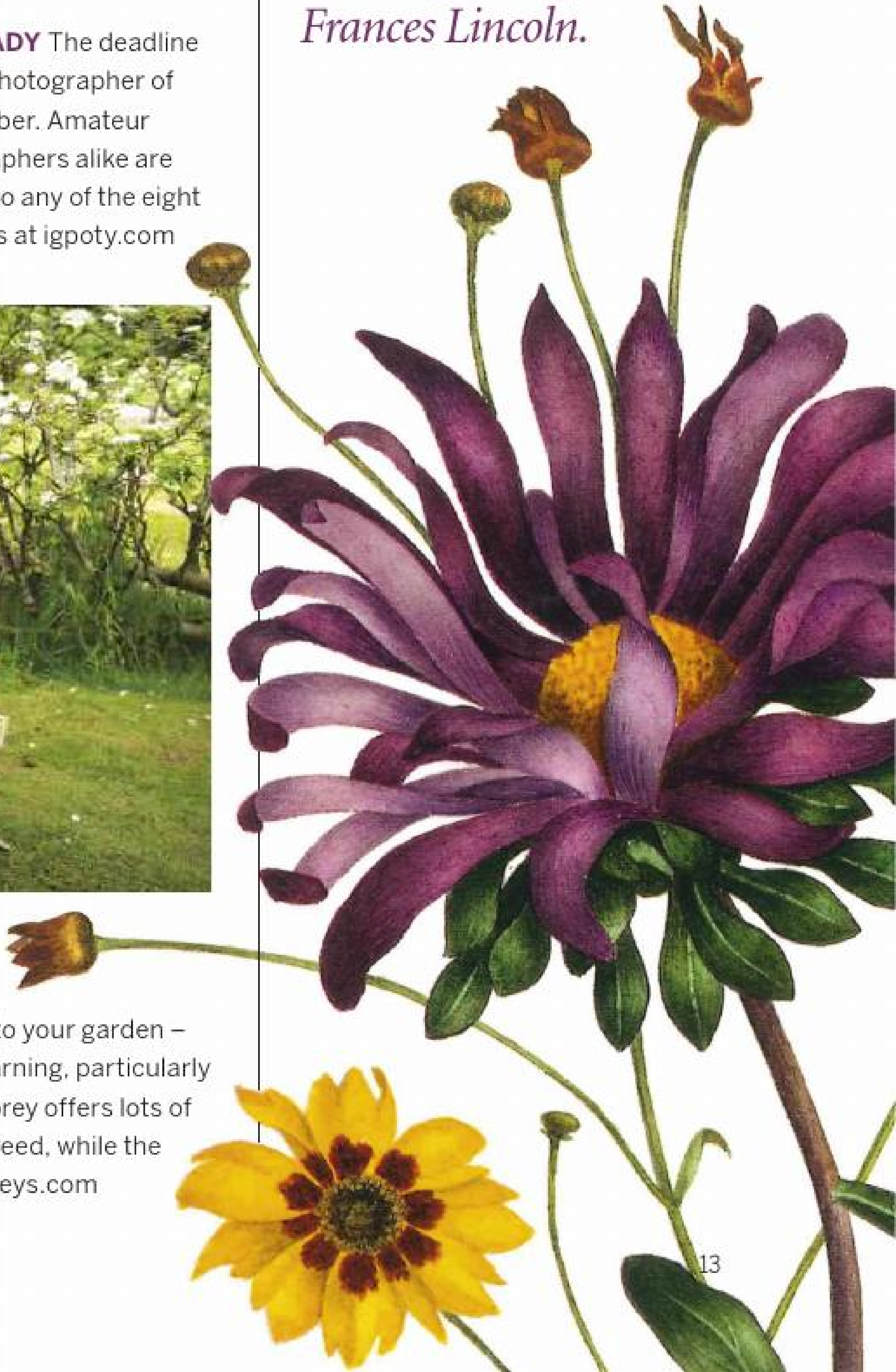
HISTORIC BLOOMS

This watercolour of Callistephus chinensis *and* Coreopsis tinctoria *is just one of 100 pieces of botancial art featured in a boxed postcard collection:* 100 Flowers. *Selected from the RHS's Lindley Library, the earliest image dates from the late 17th century and the most recent from the mid 20th century. £14.99. Available from the RHS, bookshops and publisher Frances Lincoln.*



ALYS FOWLER SHOT BY CLARE M SAVAGE/URBAN VEG. BUGSTOREYS © JOHN MILLAR; CALLISTEPHUS AND COREOPSIS TINCTORIA WATERCOLOUR BY CAROLINE MARIA APPLEBEE, CIRCA 1834 © RHS

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This sturdy, 40cm-high, fringed tulip in white, with a grey colouring to the foliage, is *Tulipa* 'Armscote', sold by the Warwickshire manor in aid of Shipston Home Nursing. You can order bulbs from the Van Tubergen catalogue (tel 01379 688282, vantubergen.co.uk), or there will be stocks available at this year's Armscote Manor Lecture Series, which runs from 7-11 October. Find details of this year's speakers at armscotemanor.co.uk or call 01608 682375.

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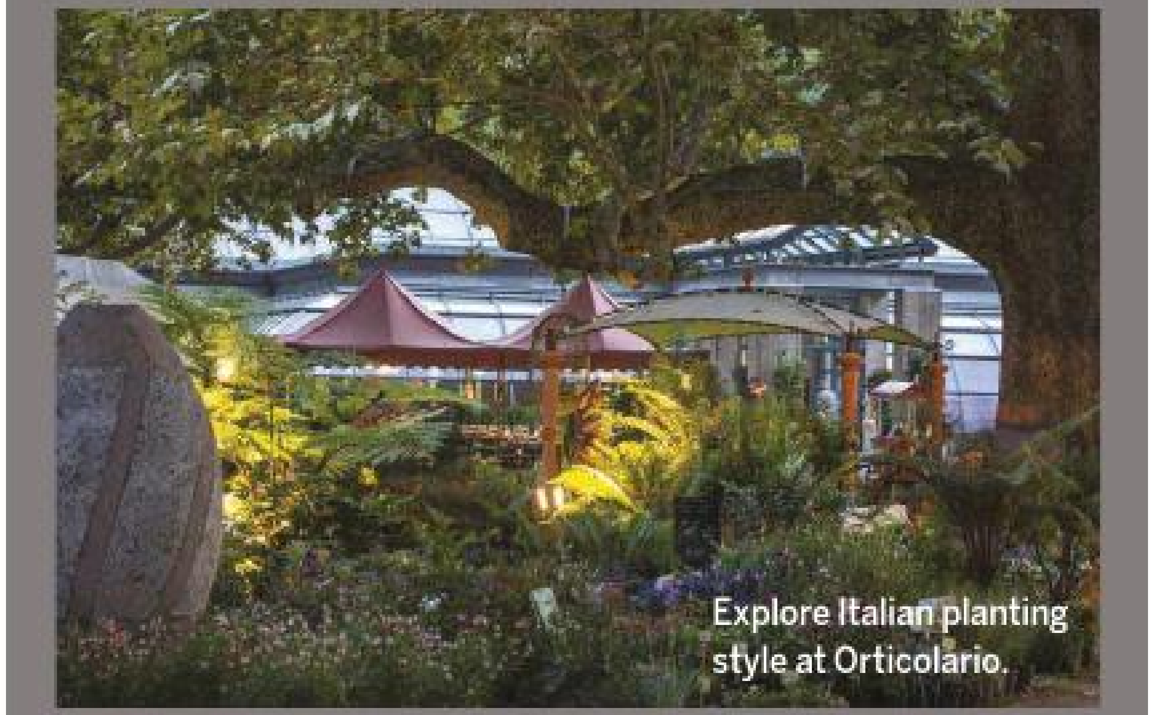
Diary



Explore Italian planting style at Orticolario.

- **Orticolario**

Italian garden festival held in the stylish surrounding of Villa Erba on the edge of Lake Como. Stalls, demonstrations and late summer garden displays. 4-6 October, €14. Villa Erba, Cernobbio, Italy. Tel +39 (0)31 3347503, orticolario.it

- **The New Kitchen Garden**

Mark Diacono, expert on edible gardening, talks about how to bring new flavours and experiences into your kitchen garden. In aid of Horatio's Garden. 5 October, £60, The Organic Gardens, Blagdon, Somerset BS40 7SQ. Book tickets at ssit.org.uk. Tel 01761 461650, theorganicgardens.co.uk

- **Grow! Cook! Eat!**

West Dean's newest food event celebrates the autumn harvest and how to get the best from fresh, seasonally grown food. There will be demonstrations, workshops and competitions. 5-6 October, 10.30am-5pm, £8.60. West Dean, nr Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ. Tel 01243 811301, www.westdean.org.uk

- **Dinner with Dan Pearson**

Enjoy a delicious dinner while designer Dan Pearson talks about his life and work. 15 October, 6-8.30pm, £50. Garden Museum, London SE1 7LB. Tel 020 7401 8865, gardenmuseum.org.uk

- **Autumn Rose Pruning and Planning for 2014**

Learn with expert horticulturists Thomas Broom and Merric Stevenson how to recognise the different types of roses and what to do as winter approaches to ensure the best growth next year. 15 October, 10.30am-12 noon, £12. Petersham Nurseries, Surrey TW10 7AG. Tel 020 8940 5230, petershamnurseries.com

- **Clematis for Every Season**

Chelsea four-times gold medallist Peter Gooch, will be giving an illustrated talk on the range of clematis on offer and how best to grow them. 15 October, 9.30am-12 noon, £17.50. Harveys Garden Plants, Suffolk IP31 3SJ. Tel 01359 233363, harveysgardenplants.co.uk

- **Growing Together**

Explore ways in which your enthusiasm for gardening can engage with others over window boxes or at community gardens. Aimed at schools, allotment societies, Transition Towns and other community groups. 23 October, 12.30-4.30pm, £20 (schools and public sector), £10 (community sector). Bishops Wood Centre, Worcestershire DY13 9SE. Tel 01299 250513, farmgarden.org.uk

ROOT BALL IMAGE BY MARIANNE MAJERUS

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

BRITISH TREES WITH INSTANT IMPACT

Now available to buy in a very unique way

The glorious colours of Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer will light up your garden

It is at this time of year that we admire the vivid display of mature trees in full Autumn colour but often don't realise just how easy it can be to have such a display in our own garden.We often assume we have to wait years to see such splendour, but today we can buy just about anything at the touch of a button and trees with 'instant impact' are no exception.

Tree buying online is not new, we have been able to buy small trees for a while now, often as gifts but it has often been frustrating to order say an oak from a picture of a mature oak tree only to receive a tiny, twig-like specimen in the post. However, now there is an exciting new website **www.buythetreeyousee.com** which promises to deliver a choice of beautiful British grown trees ranging from 9 ft to 24 ft straight to the door.

There is a guide on tree selection dependent on soil type, size, whether you want trees for a purpose such as screening, Spring flower or Autumn colour. The most unique thing about the website, however, is the chance to see a short video of the actual tree which is then sent direct to your door, thanks to an individual code. It is so straightforward and reasonably priced, that it almost comes as a surprise when a wonderful 10 foot tall Pyrus Chanticleer in this case (that's an ornamental pear to you and me) is delivered with clear instructions on planting and reassuringly is the exact tree ordered just a few days earlier.

This is the brainchild of Mike Glover of Barcham Trees, a 300 acre nursery in Ely, Cambridgeshire which specialises in growing and selling trees in specially patented white pots which have been shown to produce extremely healthy roots and make them ideal for transplanting. For the past 25 years, Barcham Trees have supplied everywhere from parks and golf courses, country estates to Chelsea Flower Gardens. They are even the proud holders of the Royal Warrant to Her Majesty the Queen.

But more recently it is the retail side of the business that has become the focus of attention, as customers become aware that they can take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience the company has built up."We are one of the few nurseries who actually grow our trees in the UK" says Mike, Managing Director. "Most British nurseries simply import their trees from the Continent which involves a significant bio-security risk as demonstrated recently with the occurrence of Ash dieback from imported Dutch trees. We hope that customers see the benefit in buying from the UK, as our trees are fully acclimatised to suit the rigours of our climate."

"No other nursery can offer such an individual service" says Mike, "And our customers tell us they are never disappointed since what they see is exactly what they get".

To view their range, log on to **www.buythetreeyousee.com** or call **01353 720950**

Barcham

buythetreeyousee.com

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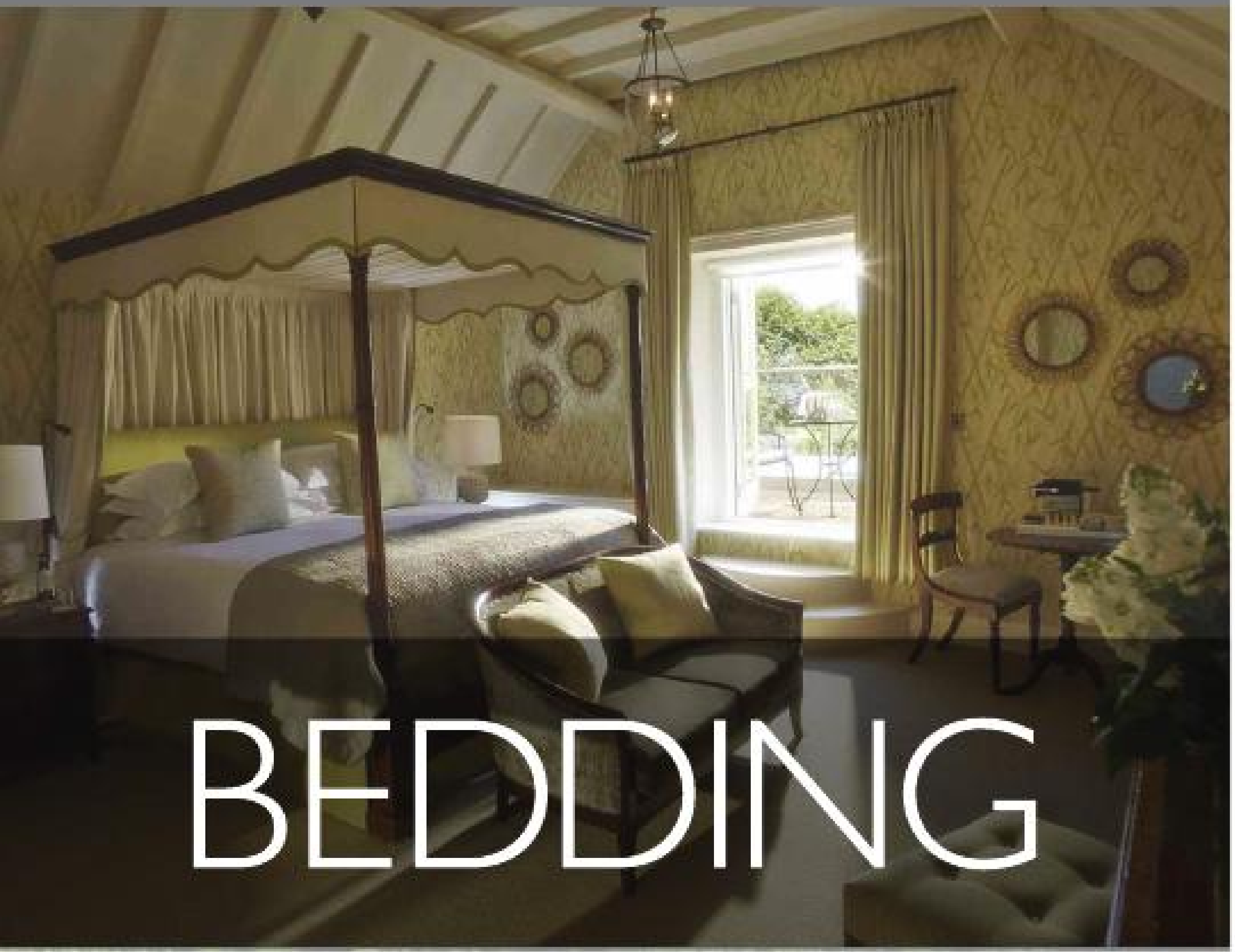
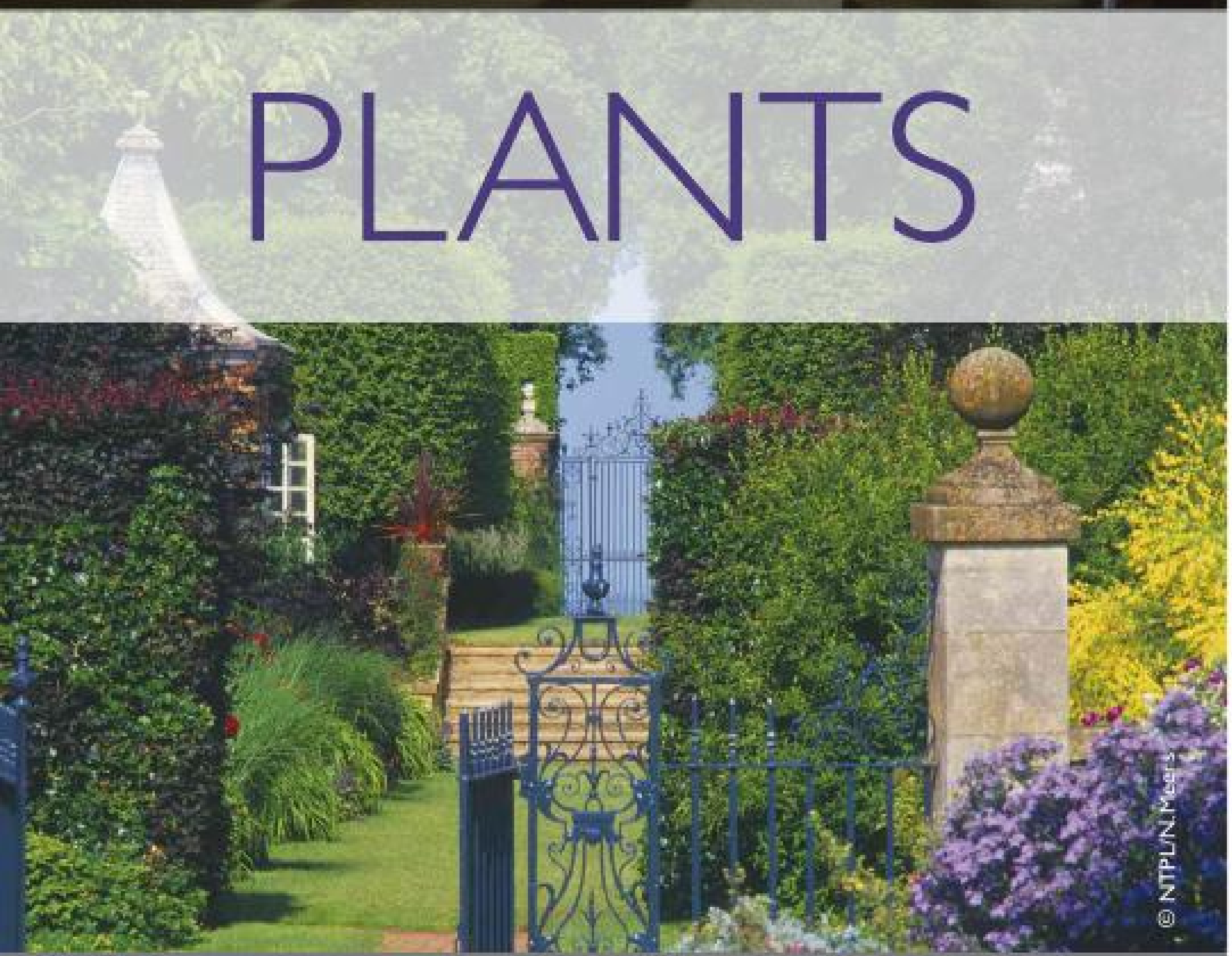
with 40 individual rooms and suites that will
become your home from home.





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James Horner

At one time plants were merely an obstacle to James Horner's football games, now they give the Great Dixter trainee a sense of belonging

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Early garden memory I was always in the garden as a youngster, but playing sports. I knew the plants only from reaching under the prickly juniper to retrieve my ball or from picking rose thorns out of it.

What was your horticultural calling? While studying at Glasgow School of Art I worked in an Argyllshire woodland; when I was home in Yorkshire I gardened with my uncle, growing vegetables and grafting apple trees, and walked in the Dales with my aunt – I just wished to work creatively and outdoors. The day of my interview for the Christopher Lloyd scholarship was the first time I visited Great Dixter, and as soon as my taxi pulled up the drive I had a feeling of belonging.

First plant love The first plant I grew from seed was *Borago officinalis*, for its gorgeous blue flower colour. I'd like to grow some again, autumn sown and used for summer bedding. My training with the Leeds Parks Department gave me an appreciation of bedding and how quickly you can achieve an effect with it.

Who has inspired your career and why Fergus Garrett, whom by the generosity of enhancing a truly magnificent garden is teaching many hands great technique, and many minds the joys of creativity and curiosity in the garden.

Favourite garden setting The palaces and *riads* of Marrakech. Nowhere before has my appreciation of the restorative power of gardens been so pronounced. Entering a *riad* you are suddenly within a cool, serene vault. Seconds before you were dodging motorbikes beeping their passage through the bustling *medina*.

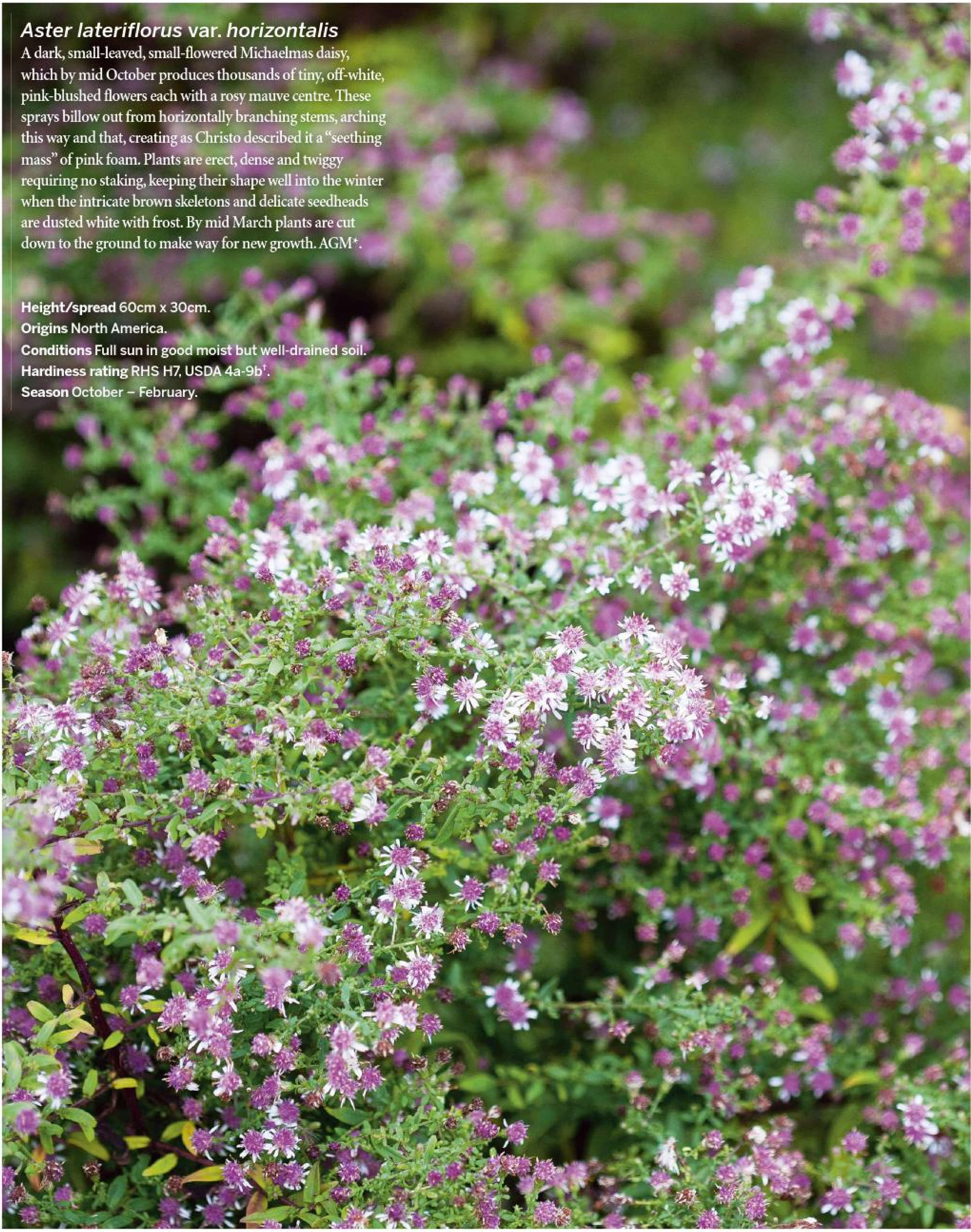
Favourite planting style I imagine a vast cutting garden with flowers for people recuperating from ill health, for honeymoon suites and people simply picking up a bouquet before seeing a friend.

Three tips you'd give to any gardener Be curious of a plant's capabilities, seek good forms and observe exact flowering times so that plantings crescendo.

Dream plant destination Having recently discovered flora in Japan and Turkey, I hope next year to visit many Italian gardens.

Most valuable training The discipline to observe timing in your garden, when a plant emerges, how much space it then takes, its habit, when it melts to ground, what it might be compatible living alongside. With this knowledge begins succession planting, experimentation and a garden that has year-round high points.

Contact email address jamesleehorner@yahoo.co.uk



Aster lateriflorus var. *horizontalis*

A dark, small-leaved, small-flowered Michaelmas daisy, which by mid October produces thousands of tiny, off-white, pink-blushed flowers each with a rosy mauve centre. These sprays billow out from horizontally branching stems, arching this way and that, creating as Christo described it a "seething mass" of pink foam. Plants are erect, dense and twiggy requiring no staking, keeping their shape well into the winter when the intricate brown skeletons and delicate seedheads are dusted white with frost. By mid March plants are cut down to the ground to make way for new growth. AGM[*].

Height/spread 60cm x 30cm.
Origins North America.
Conditions Full sun in good moist but well-drained soil.
Hardiness rating RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b[†].
Season October – February.

October plants

There are still plenty of colourful blooms around, combined with glorious foliage and bright glistening berries

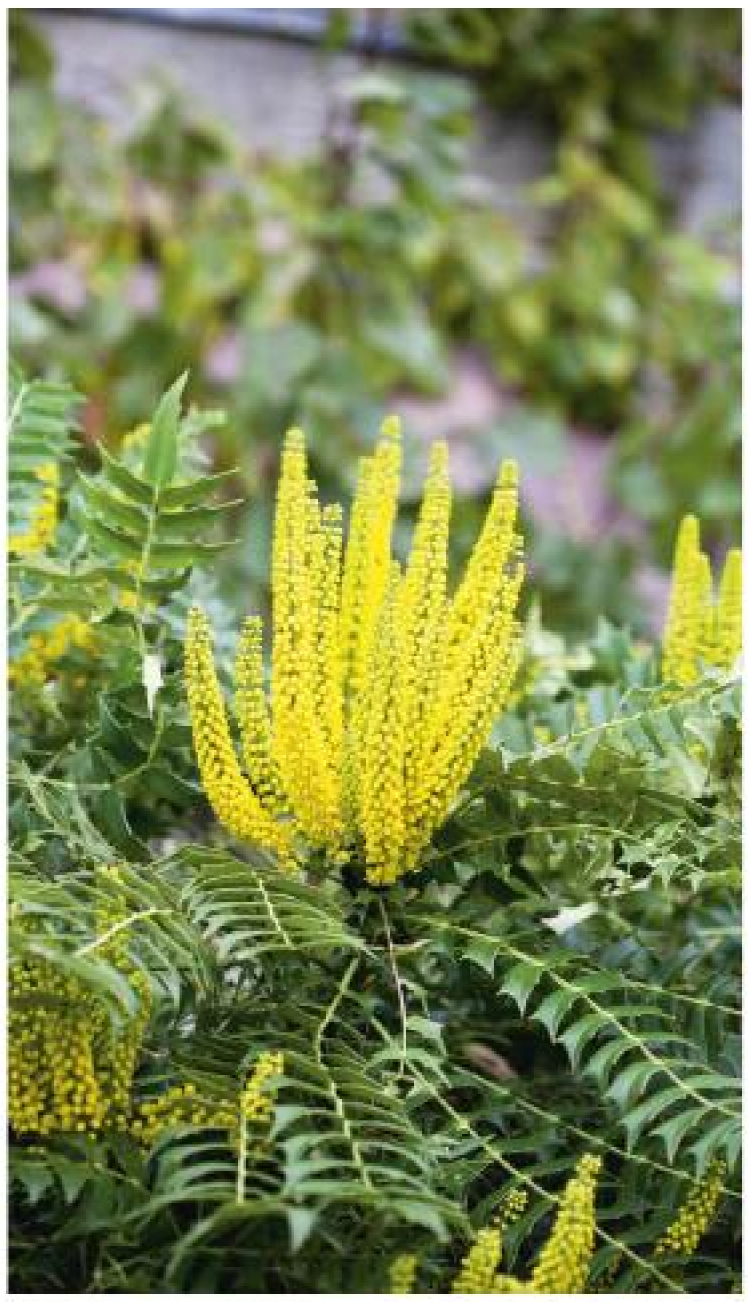
WORDS **FERGUS GARRETT** PHOTOGRAPHS **SHARON PEARSON**

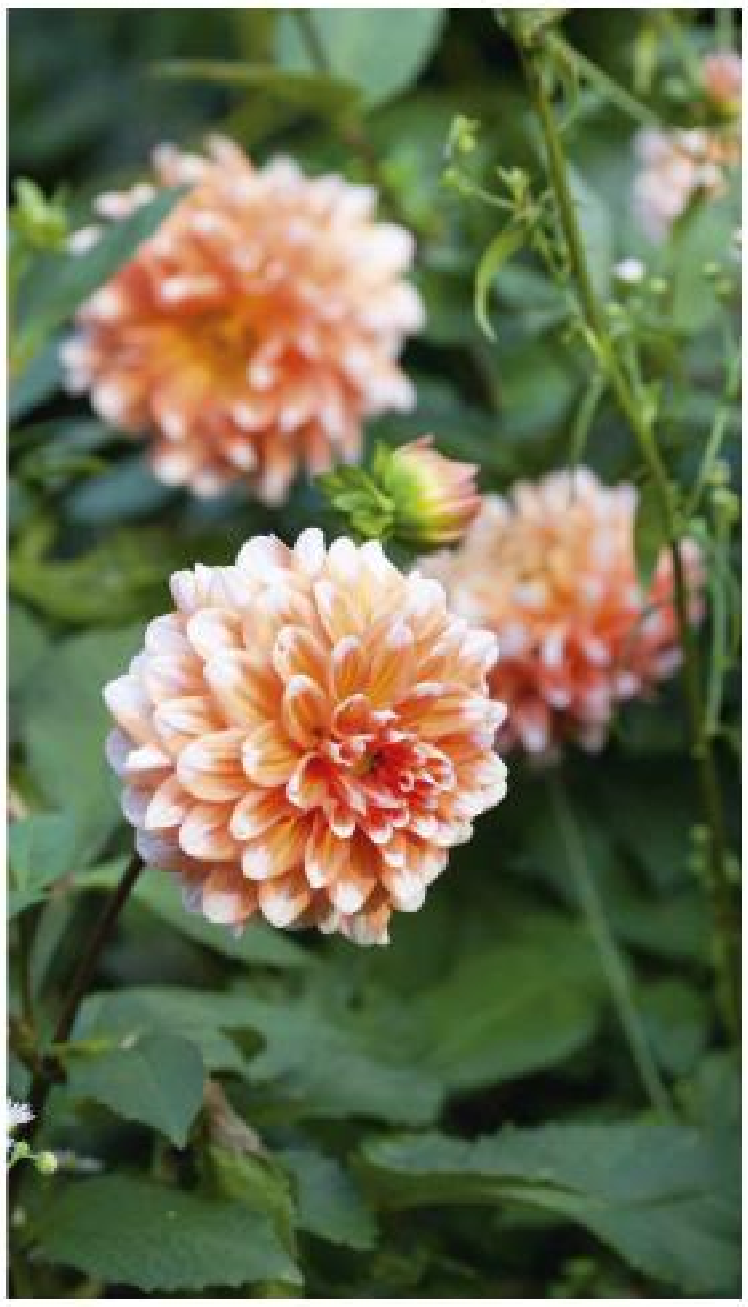
Fergus Garrett is a plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex where he continues the legacy of the late, great Christopher Lloyd. Fergus also lectures, writes and serves on Royal Horticultural Society committees.

Mahonia oiwakensis subsp. *lomariifolia*

Gaunt, as if on the edge of starvation, erect stems, naked from ground up, patterned with deeply fissured bark, carry umbrellas of long pinnate, evergreen leaves made up of numerous holly-like leaflets. These are stiff, leathery and neatly arranged in pairs along a midrib when viewed from above. Bright yellow globular flowers radiate out from the branch tips followed by glaucous green berries that mature blue-black. AGM.

Height/spread 3m x 2m.
Origins SE China and Myanmar (formerly Burma), cultivated by L Johnston in 1931.
Conditions Warm sheltered corner, sun or part shade, moist but well-drained soil.
Season Flowers October – November. Foliage all year.



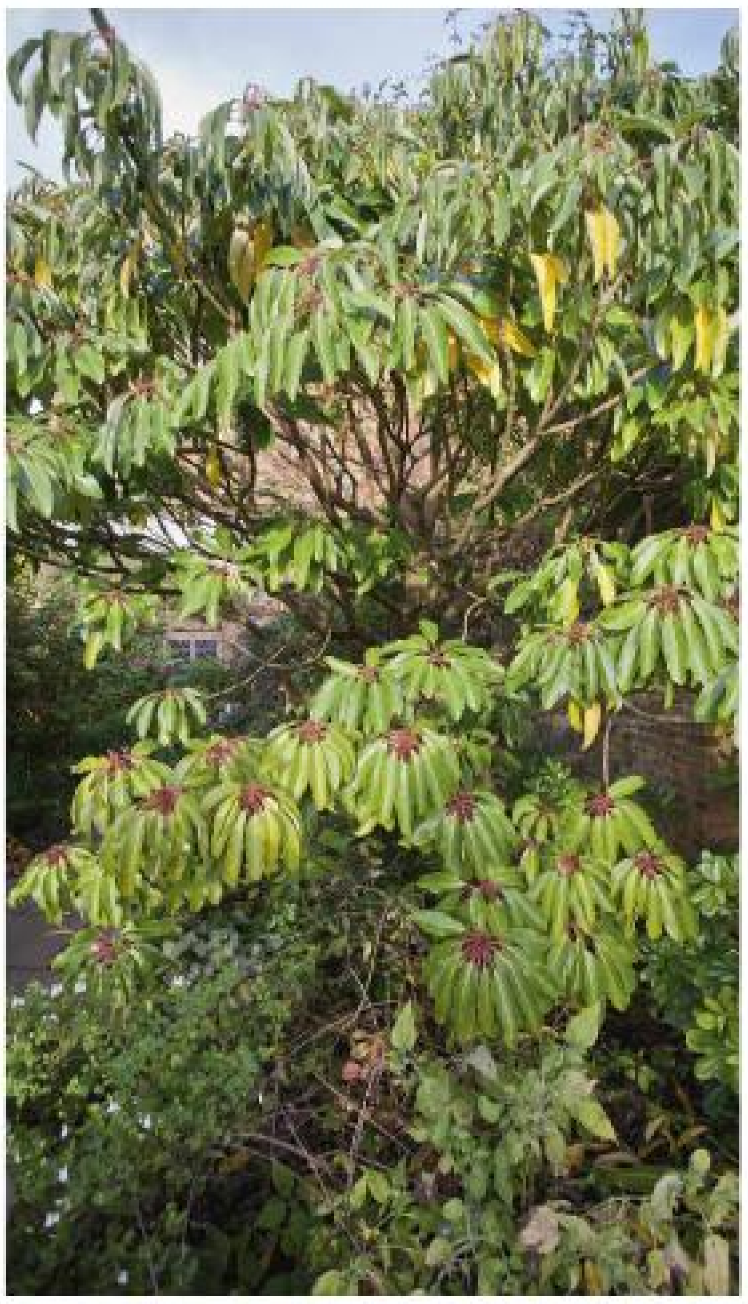


Dahlia 'A la Mode'

This charming small bicoloured dahlia is predominantly apricot but with ray tips broadly splashed white. The flowers are fully double, dense, fat and sumptuous and show no disc in the centre. They are informal in shape, more open and loose in petal formation, twisting and turning without being messy and are held on stiff stems presented well above the leaves. The delicate tones of this dahlia goes particularly well late in the season with the electric sky-blue bog sage, *Salvia uliginosa*, or the deeper colour of *Salvia guaranitica* 'Blue Enigma'.

Height/spread 1.8m x 0.7m.
Origins Raised Swan Island Dahlias, Canby, Oregon in 1993; available in the UK from the National Dahlia Collection, Penzance.
Conditions Full sun in rich soil.
Season July – October.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



Daphniphyllum macropodum

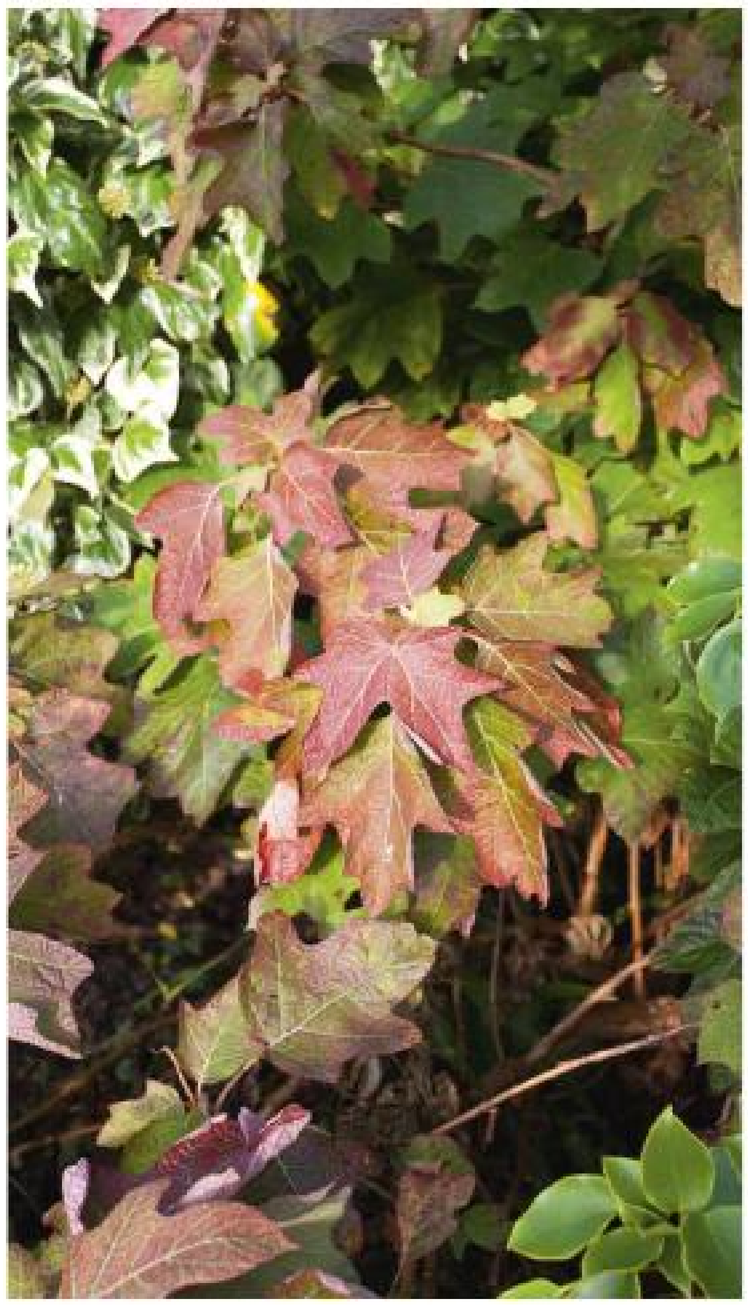
A striking evergreen shrub that looks like a large *Schefflera*. Has impressively long oval leaves, smooth and polished in a glaucous sheen, pale on the undersides and held drooping off rich-red stem petioles that dramatically intensify in colour during winter. The plant grows in whorls giving it its essential character. The male and female flowers are held on separate plants and are borne in spring as the brown-tinted young foliage emerges. Blue-black fruits follow if females have a suitable mate. Young leaves turn black if hit by late frosts in spring.

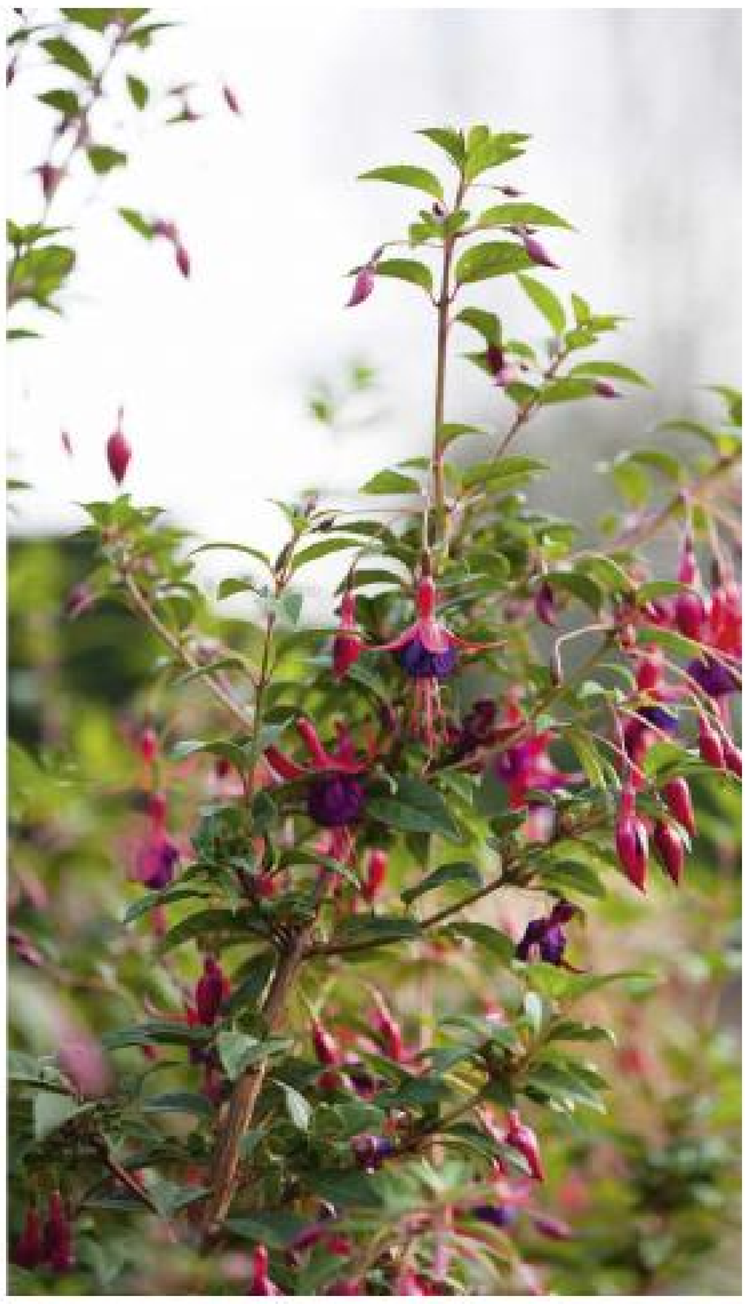
Height/spread 4m x 3m.
Origins Korean peninsula, Japan and China.
Conditions Sun, part shade in rich well-drained soil.
Hardiness rating USDA 7a-9b.
Season All year.

Hydrangea quercifolia

The oak-leaved hydrangea is a dramatic, spreading shrub furnished with handsome five-to-seven-lobed, rough-textured green leaves. The emerging foliage and young shoots are covered in soft beige down with peeling bark dressing the old stems. Round-topped, cone flower panicles are packed with white infertile and fertile florets. These are held erect on two-year-old stems and fade pink before drying brown in winter. The leaves take on vivid autumn colours of red, crimson and purple and persist into the cold season. Exceptional in foliage as well as in flower.

Height/spread 2m x 2.5m.
Origins SE USA.
Conditions Sun or part shade in good soil.
Hardiness rating RHS H3-4, USDA 6a-9b.
Season August – December.





Fuchsia 'Enfant Prodigue'

A large and vigorous hardy fuchsia with long, leafy stems that gently arch over under the sheer weight of flowers. Carried in loose clusters, pointed bright red buds hang gracefully before splitting open, splaying the four red sepals horizontally to reveal a fat, rich, velvety purple skirt of unfurling petals. The male stamens and the long female pistil, both identical in colour to the sepals, protrude prominently from the centre making an exquisite shape. Free flowering right until the first frosts, rich in colour, and refined with great poise, this is a cut above the rest.

Height/spread 2m x 2m.
Origins Bred in 1887 by Lemoine in France.
Conditions Full sun in moist well-drained soil.
Season July – November.

Places to visit

Fergus shares some of his favourite places to see plants at their best.

Will Giles's Exotic Garden in Norfolk is a cornucopia of plants that shouldn't really survive in temperate climes. Will has created this subtropical paradise in his one-acre plot that lies just a stone's throw away from Norwich train station. Will loves to experiment with plants and there are no boundaries to his taste. The garden is full of surprises all within the comfort of mature trees and hedges – everything, in Will's words, "from the ludicrously tender to the dead hardy". 6 Cotman Road, Thorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4AF. Tel 01603 623167, exoticgarden.com. Open every Sunday from June to 20 October 1-5pm.

Will Giles's Exotic Garden, Norwich

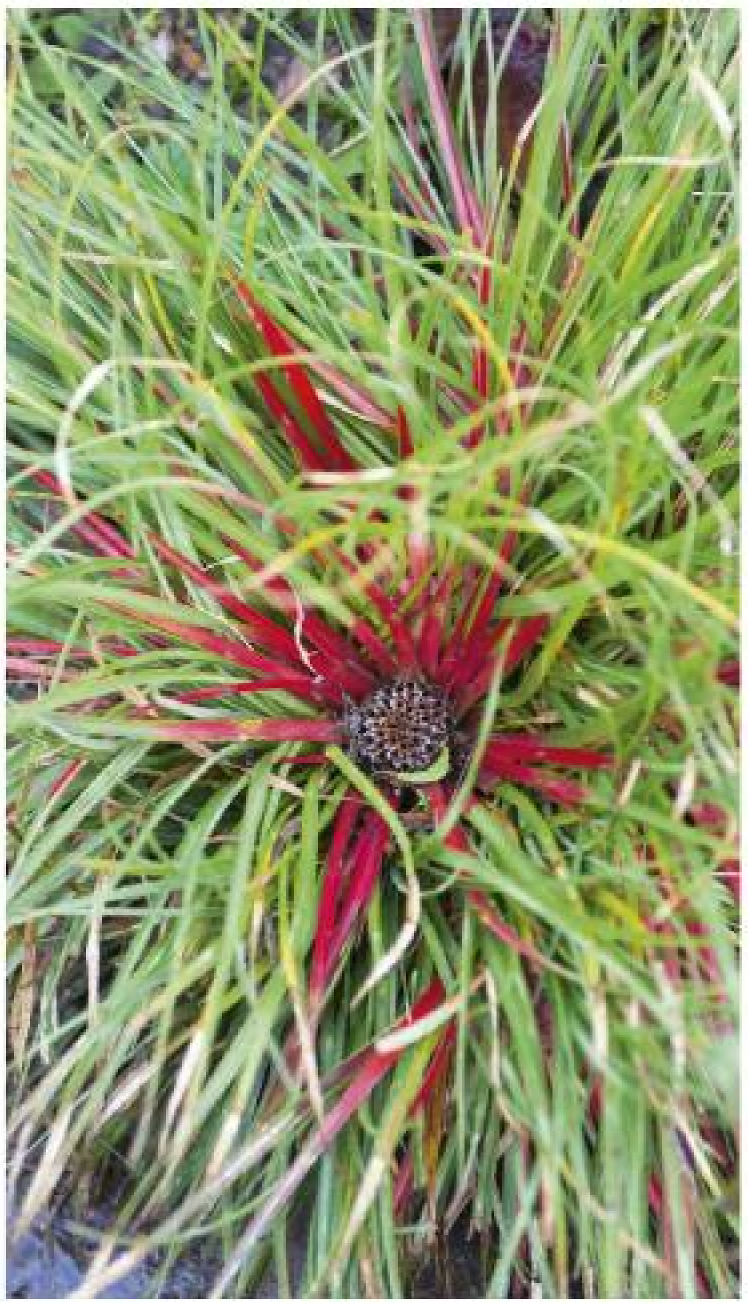
DCIMAGES / ALAMY

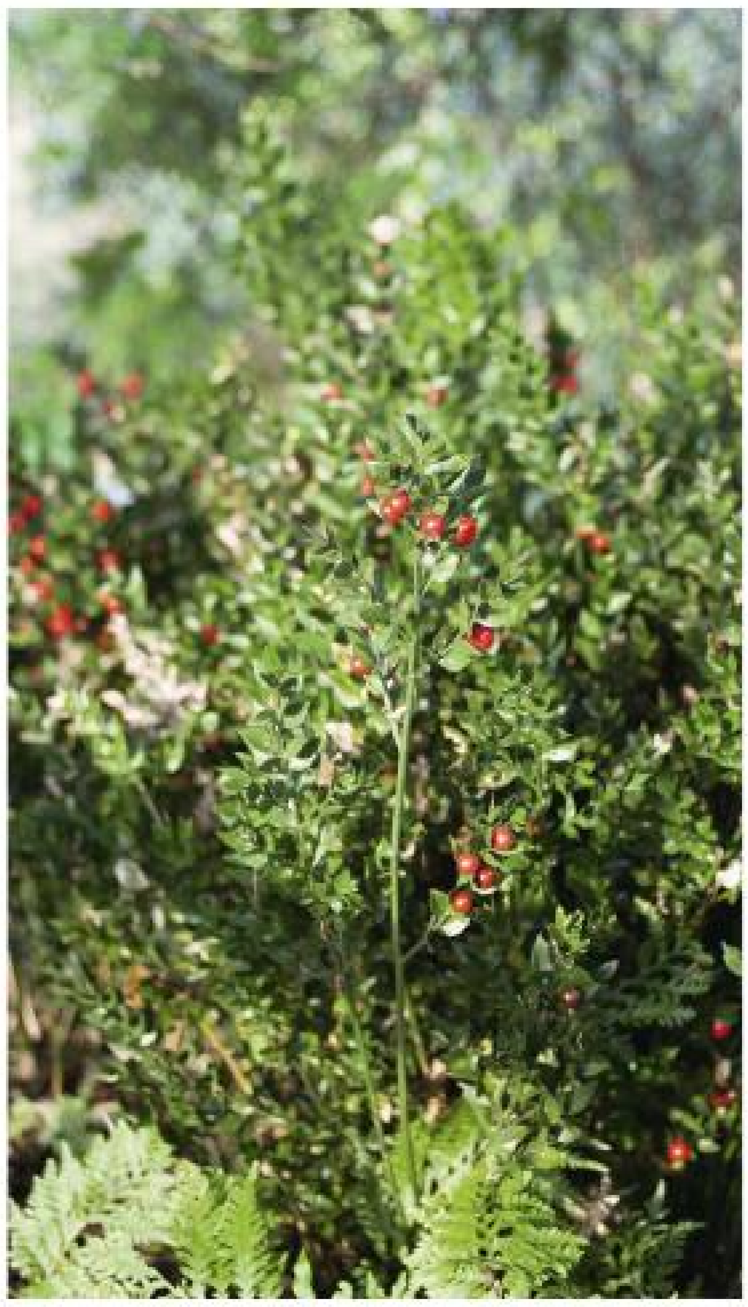
Plantbase Nursery, in East Sussex is home to Graham Blunt's mouth-watering list of tropical,

Fascicularia bicolor subsp. *canaliculata*

An eye-catching, exotic-looking hardy bromeliad, making slowly expanding, messy, low mounds of thin grey-green foliage. The leaves are outwardly curving, spiny and tightly packed in rosettes. Some of these turn a striking florescent crimson red at the base before developing fattening clusters of tightly packed, powder-blue flower buds in the centre. These open into upward facing, vivid blue tubular flowers each garnished with contrasting bright yellow anthers. The flowers fade brown but the crimson colour remains for several weeks.

Height/spread 40cm x 40cm.
Origins Chile.
Conditions Well-drained soil in full sun or part shade.
Season October – November.





Ruscus aculeatus (hermaphrodite form)

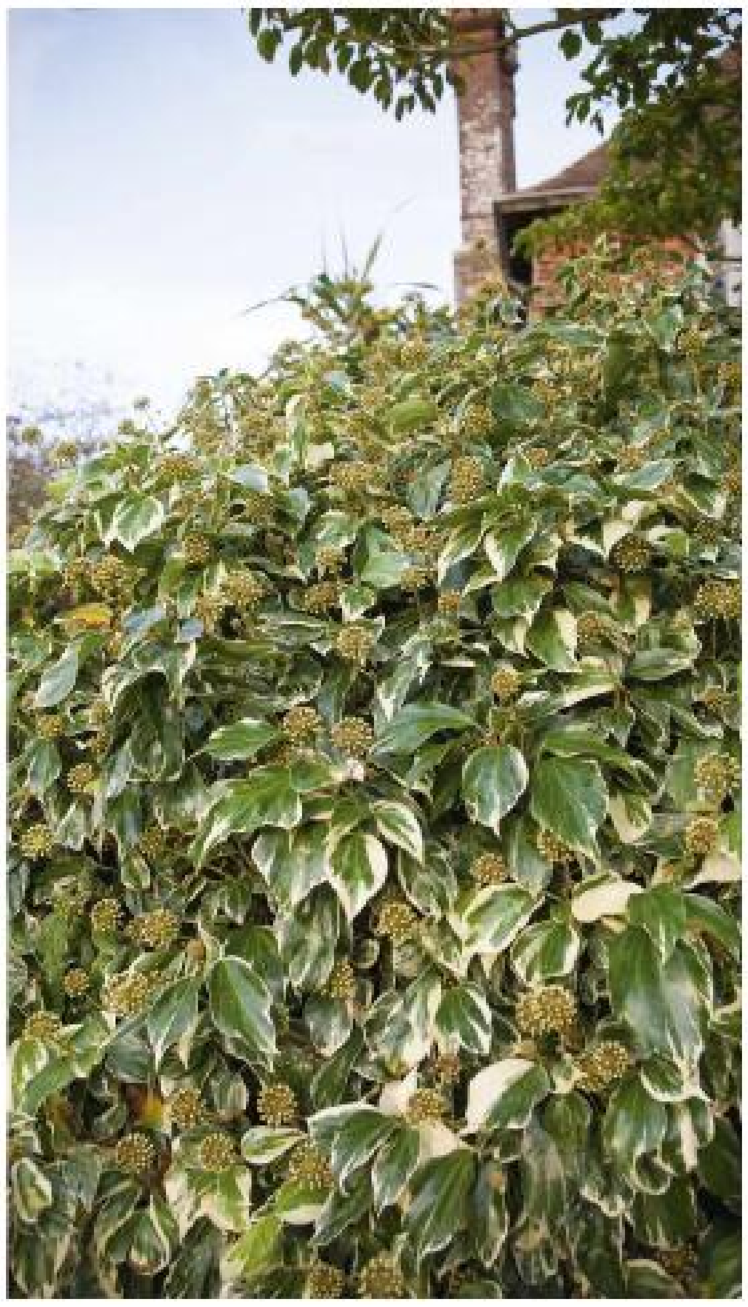
Small yet tough, this sub-shrub has dark-green stems decorated in dense, spine-tipped, leaf-like branches called cladodes. These are angularly arranged resulting in a glittering texture. Plants are usually dioecious (male and female separate), so females require a close male companion to produce berries. Our form is hermaphrodite, producing plump, rich red globular fruit in late summer. These glisten in the winter sun and last into the following year sometimes overlapping with the current crop. Seedlings come true but are painfully slow.

Height/spread 50cm x 40cm.
Origins Europe through to Asia Minor.
Conditions Part to full shade in most soils.
Season Foliage of interest year round, with berries good August – July.

Hedera algeriensis 'Gloire de Marengo' (arborescent form)

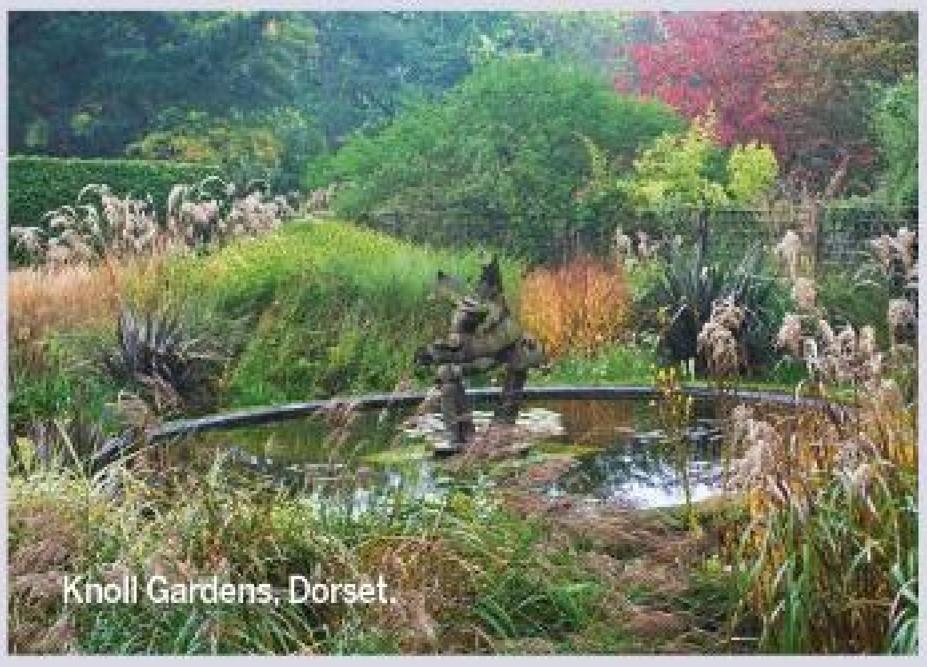
The bush form of the variegated Canary Island ivy forms a multi-stemmed, rounded mass covered with luminous evergreen leaves. These are glossy, puckered with a cream edging merging into bands of grey, mottled with green and grey-green from the centre. The adult leaves are smaller than the juvenile climbing forms and erratically ovate in shape. In autumn the bush becomes extraterrestrial when covered in queer globular greyish umbels that open into insect-attracting, white flowers.

Height/spread 2.5m x 2.5m.
Origins Azores, Portugal, Canaries, NW Africa, Madeira.
Conditions Sun or shade in moist well-drained soil.
Season Flowers October – November.



Australian, South African, New Zealand and South American plants. His range is from temperate to tropical, growing around 1,600 different varieties of plants. Graham grows every single plant on site and the nursery is laid out in cultivation areas of desert, jungle, woodland, alpine, waterside, prairie and border. I have never been but have trusted friends who have and recommend it. Sleepers Stile Road, Cousley Wood, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6QX. Tel 01892 785599, plantbase.co.uk. Open seven days a week, 10am-5pm (appointment recommended in winter).

Knoll Gardens is a four-acre showcase of ornamental grasses and perennials. Also a nursery, it's run by Neil Lucas, the UK's leading authority on the subject, and the garden leads the way in integrating grasses and perennials in a naturalistic style. Easy to walk around, the gardens are spectacular in autumn. Hampreston, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND. Tel 01202 873931, knollgardens.co.uk. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm (until 4pm November – March), and Bank Holiday Mondays.



Knoll Gardens, Dorset.

DAVE ZUBRASKI / ALAMY

EXCLUSIVE READER DAY

Light installations by Bruce Munro (right above and below) are featured at Waddesdon Manor this winter.

Winter Light at Waddesdon Manor

Join celebrated artist Bruce Munro for a talk about his work followed by a walk through the gardens at Waddesdon Manor to view his latest light installations

Using the magnificent Victorian gardens and grounds of Waddesdon Manor as a backdrop, Bruce Munro's latest light installation shows six large-scale pieces of work – two of which have been conceived especially for Waddesdon – in an immersive and evocative exhibition of light-based artwork for the winter season. GARDENS ILLUSTRATED readers are invited to an exclusive day to meet the artist, hear him talk about his work and his new book *Catching the Light*, and tour the grounds to view the exhibition.

Your day at Waddesdon also includes a tour of the Manor, a delicious lunch, a demonstration on creating seasonal decorations for your home, plus the opportunity to browse the gift shop and glasshouses sumptuously decorated for Christmas (along with a 10 per cent discount for use in the gift shop and nursery on the day). At the end of your day there will be the opportunity to revisit the installations to see them to full effect at dusk.

The exhibition runs from 13 Nov 2013 – 1 Jan 2014. Visit waddesdon.org.uk for details.

BRUCE MUNRO

British artist BRUCE MUNRO is renowned for immersive, large-scale, mixed-media installations utilising his interest in light and the way it can shape and imply form. One of his best-known installations was *Field of Light*, which was first exhibited at the V&A Museum, London in 2004. This is the second year that Bruce has worked with Waddesdon.

Tickets cost £60

To book call

0871 230 7156*

or visit our website

gardensillustrated.com

Tickets and directions will be sent out prior to the event. Places are limited so booking is essential. Please advise us of any dietary requirements or accessibility queries.

*Calls to this number from a BT landline will cost 10p per minute. Calls from mobiles and other providers may vary.

DATE

15 November 2013

HELD AT

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH

PROGRAMME

10am Welcome and coffee in the Glasshouse Cafe

10.30am Demonstration on creating a centrepiece for the Christmas table

12 noon Visit the Manor's East Wing decorated for Christmas

1pm Lunch in the Manor Restaurant (two courses with glass of wine and coffee)

2.30pm Talk from Bruce Munro

3.30pm Tour of light installations in the gardens accompanied by Bruce Munro

4.30pm Tea and cake in the Manor Restaurant, plus Bruce will sign copies of his new book

BRUCE MUNRO INSTALLATIONS: MARK PICKTHALL; WADDESDON: JOHN BIGELOW TAYLOR; NATIONAL TRUST
BRUCE MUNRO PORTRAIT ©LONGWOOD GARDENS (PA, USA 2012), PHOTO: CORRIETTE SCHOENAERTS

Prolong the joy

Colour may be fading and the days getting cooler, but now is the time to have some fun with scented fripperies that will brighten up the winter months

WORDS **LIA LEENDERTZ** ILLUSTRATION **PETRA BÖRNER**

Plant forced hyacinths

It's a joy to be able to plant pretty, scented fripperies just as all the other gardening work becomes about earth and roots. Choose fat, glistening, pre-chilled or 'prepared' hyacinths from the garden centre, tuck them – tips just showing – into compost in nice pots that you wouldn't mind having on your kitchen windowsill. Water and place somewhere dark and cool: a shed under a larger upturned pot is perfect. Keep them moist and after a couple of months they will be ready to bring out to fill your landing or kitchen with heady scent. These are highly bred and gaudy things and will never look naturalistic, and as such I favour verging-on-gaudy, purple-red *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Woodstock' with deepest pink 'Jan Bos'.

Don't panic with dahlias

Dahlias may get hit by an early frost around now, and turn black and gruesome looking, but that's all right. There's little point in ripping them out prematurely and missing their last glorious days in an anxious panic. I push it to the limit; the first frosts will do no harm. In fact I use the blackening as a call to action, only then lifting them gently, allowing the tubers to dry off, before brushing them completely free of soil and nestling them into a bag of just-damp compost somewhere frost free for the winter. If you are the daring type and garden somewhere mild and freely draining you can just cut them down and mulch them and cross fingers for a mild winter, but that's not for me and my clay.

Order and plant hedges

Serious business now. October is the time to put away childish things and to think about structure and backbone, the things you never notice unless they aren't there. I don't want tatty fences and views to next-door's broken garage door, I want walls of sleek dark yew, or perhaps of rusty hornbeam that bursts into lime green buds in spring. Evergreen hedging can be planted now, while the soil is hopefully warm and moist, and deciduous choices can be planted throughout winter, but order now. □

Other jobs

Divide spring and early-summer flowering perennials and replant.

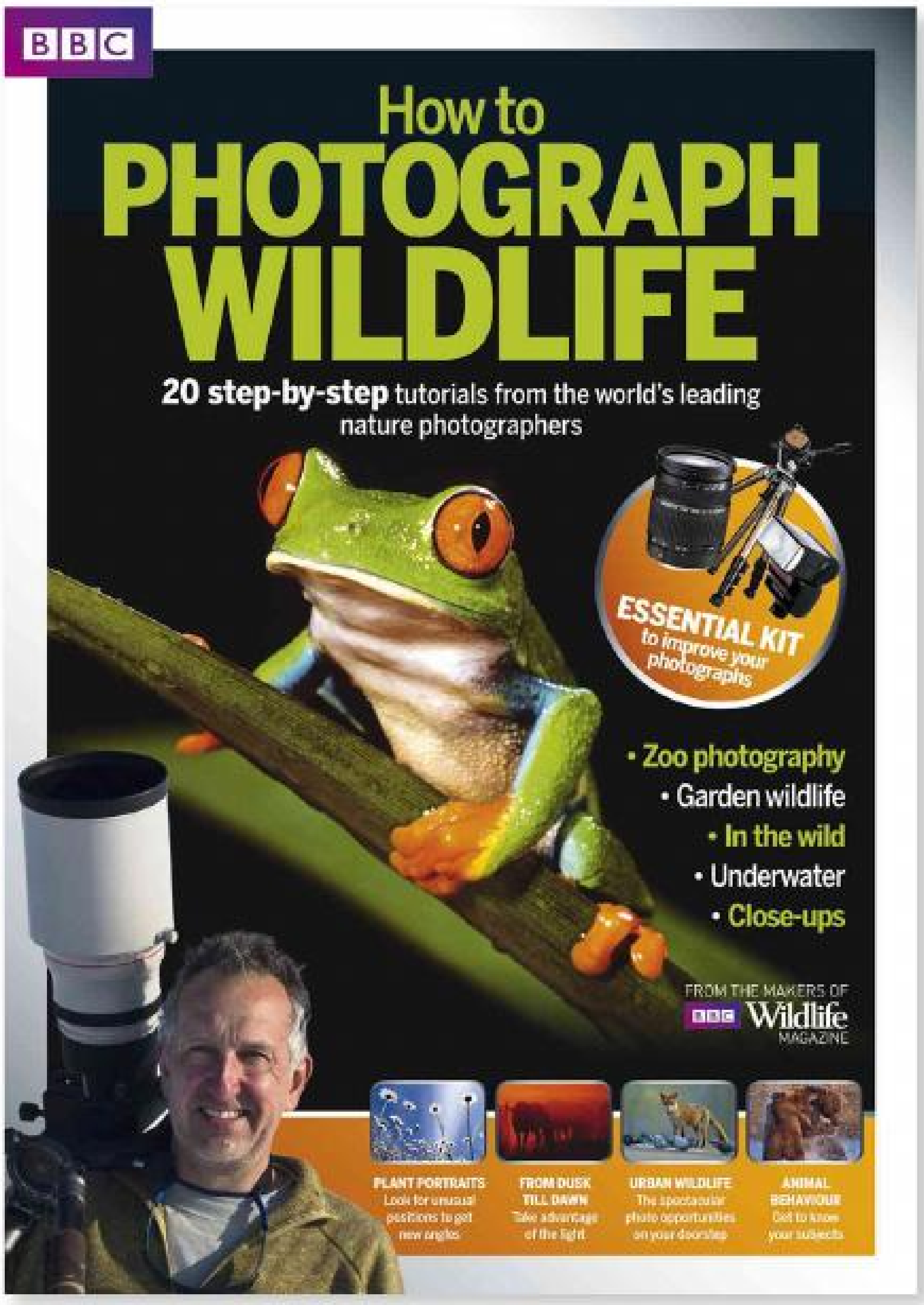
This is generally a good time for laying new turf, or patching up scruffy bits of lawn with turf or seed.

Cut winter squash and pumpkins before the first frosts and leave them to cure in a sunny place for a few days, for best storage.

As central heating comes on, houseplants dry out. Group them together and place dishes of pebbles and water among them to raise humidity.

If you are moving plants into the greenhouse, clean it out well first, making sure to evict all slugs and snails.

How to PHOTOGRAPH WILDLIFE


BBC

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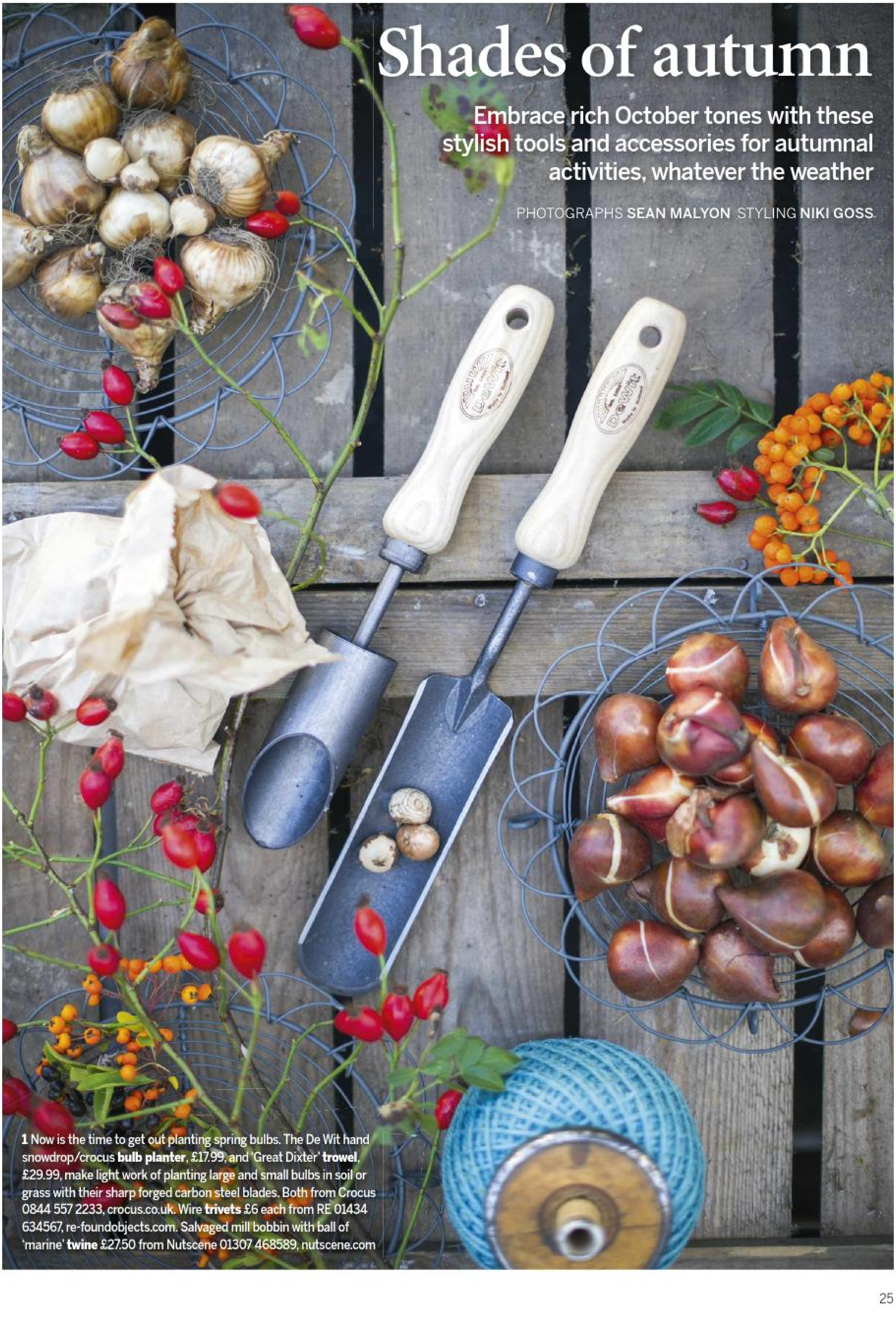
*Prices including postage will be £9.49 for UK residents, £10.99 for Europe and £11.49 for Rest of World. All orders are subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

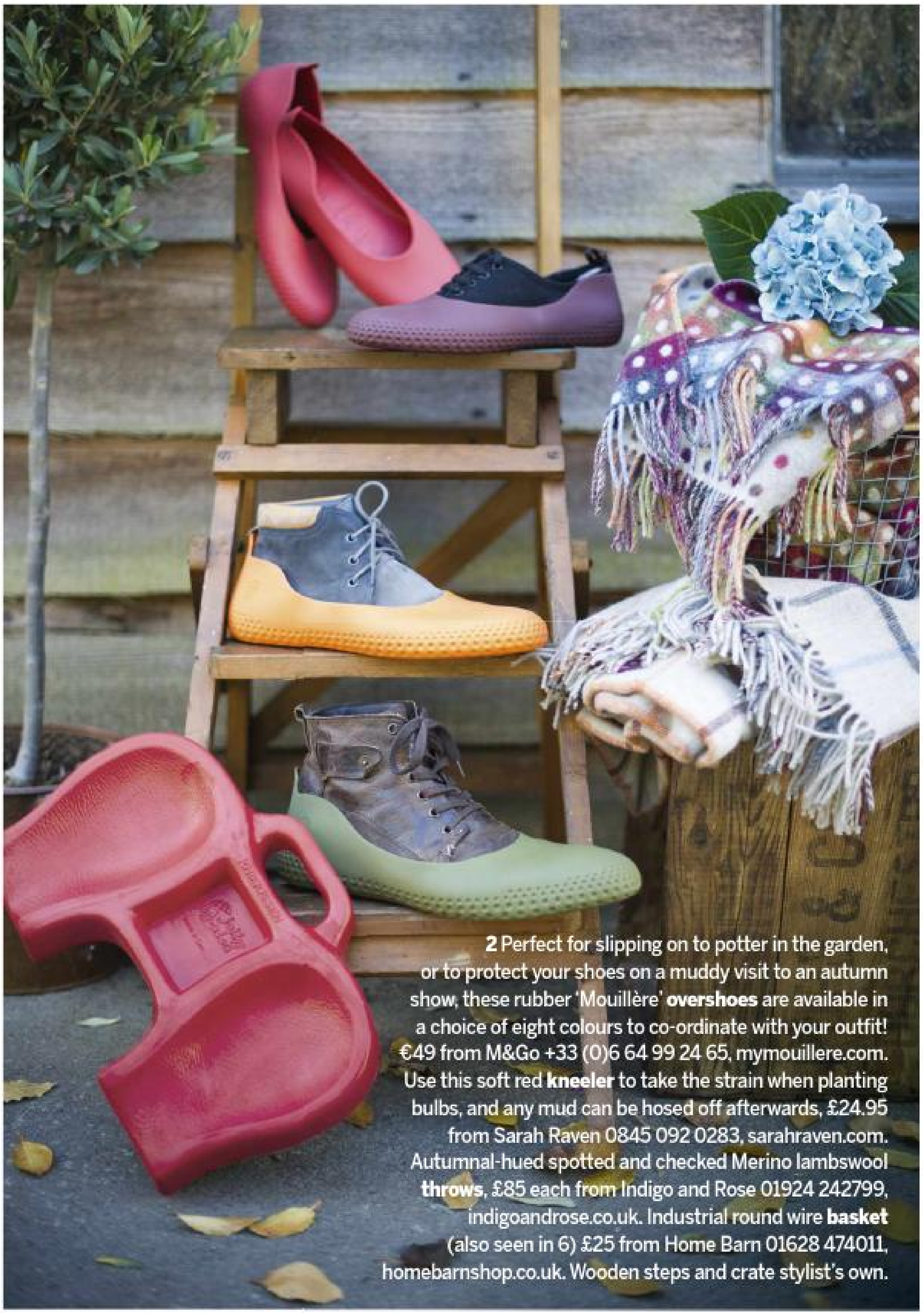
Shades of autumn

Embrace rich October tones with these stylish tools and accessories for autumnal activities, whatever the weather

PHOTOGRAPHS **SEAN MALYON** STYLING **NIKI GOSS**



1 Now is the time to get out planting spring bulbs. The De Wit hand snowdrop/crocus **bulb planter**, £17.99, and 'Great Dixter' **trowel**, £29.99, make light work of planting large and small bulbs in soil or grass with their sharp forged carbon steel blades. Both from Crocus 0844 557 2233, crocus.co.uk. Wire **trivets** £6 each from RE 01434 634567, re-foundobjects.com. Salvaged mill bobbin with ball of 'marine' **twine** £27.50 from Nutscene 01307 468589, nutscene.com



2 Perfect for slipping on to potter in the garden, or to protect your shoes on a muddy visit to an autumn show, these rubber 'Mouillère' **overshoes** are available in a choice of eight colours to co-ordinate with your outfit! €49 from M&Go +33 (0)6 64 99 24 65, mymouillere.com. Use this soft red **kneeler** to take the strain when planting bulbs, and any mud can be hosed off afterwards, £24.95 from Sarah Raven 0845 092 0283, sarahraven.com. Autumnal-hued spotted and checked Merino lambswool **throws**, £85 each from Indigo and Rose 01924 242799, indigoandrose.co.uk. Industrial round wire **basket** (also seen in 6) £25 from Home Barn 01628 474011, homebarnshop.co.uk. Wooden steps and crate stylist's own.

5

6

3

4

3 Display colourful autumn hedgerow finds in this small **lightbulb vase** £8 from Home Barn (see 2).

4 'Wilderness' greetings **cards**, nine designs in lovely autumnal colours featuring characterful illustrations of wild creatures by Jill White, £2.50 each from Rocket68 rocket68.com. Vintage French vine **secateurs** £20 from Home Barn (see 2). All other items stylist's own.

5 Smoke and green hyacinth forcer **vases** £10.50 each from Sarah Raven (see 2), turquoise vase (in centre) £9.95 from Nkuku at Not On The High Street 0845 259135, notonthehighstreet.com/nkuku

6 Keep your feet dry in style with the 'Slimpack Riding Glow' **boots** (left), an elegant riding boot shape in leather and vulcanised rubber with colourful heel detail, £90; for ultimate warmth the '1964 PAC 2' boots (right) will see you through the coldest and wettest weather, £125, both by Sorel 0808 234 0228, sorelfootwear.co.uk. Long-handled bulb planter £82.50 from the Great Dixter Shop 01797 254047, greatdixtershop.co.uk. Basket by Home Barn (see 2).

Shot on location at Flowers by Passion near Bath, 01225 859994, flowersbypassion.com

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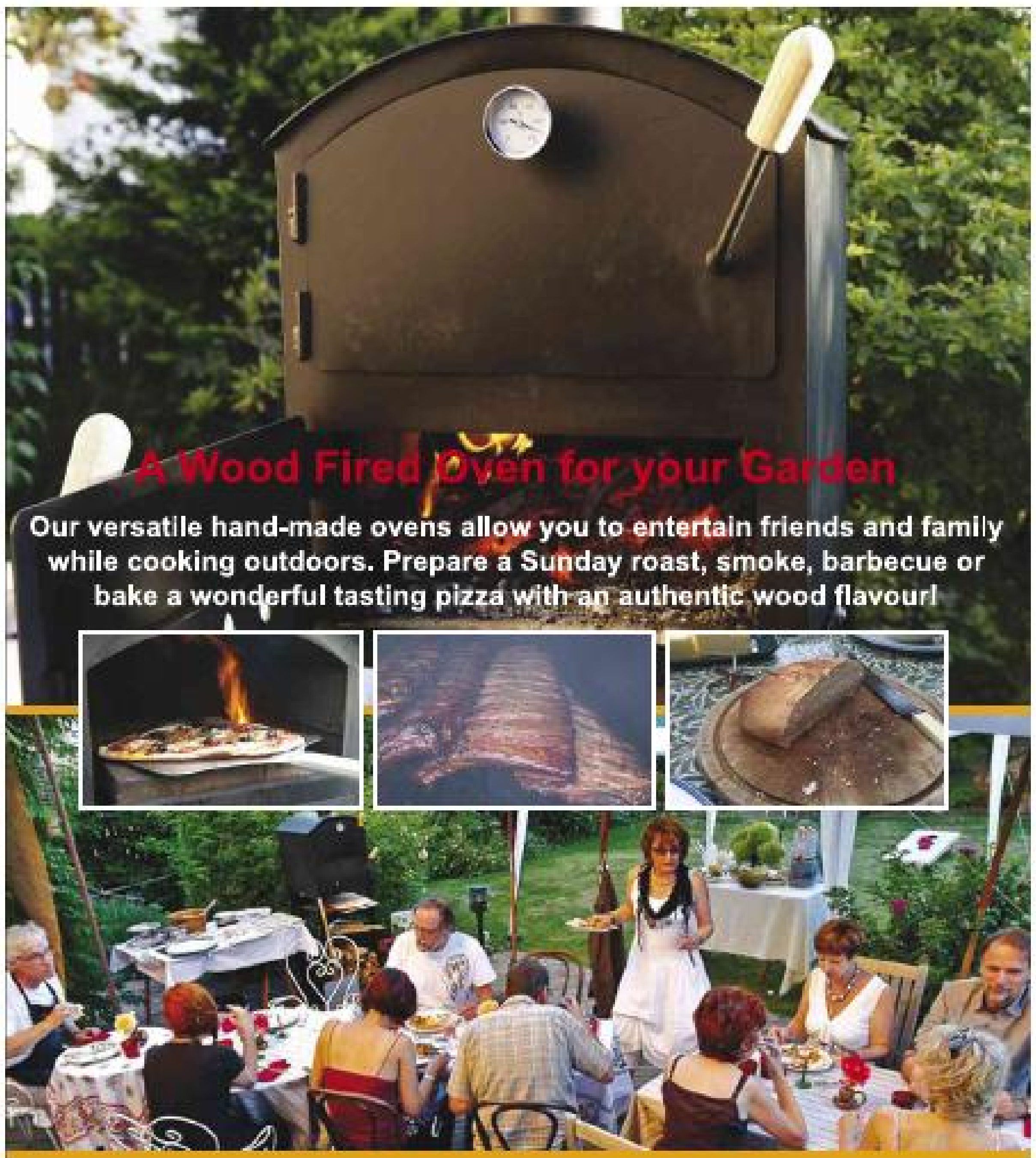

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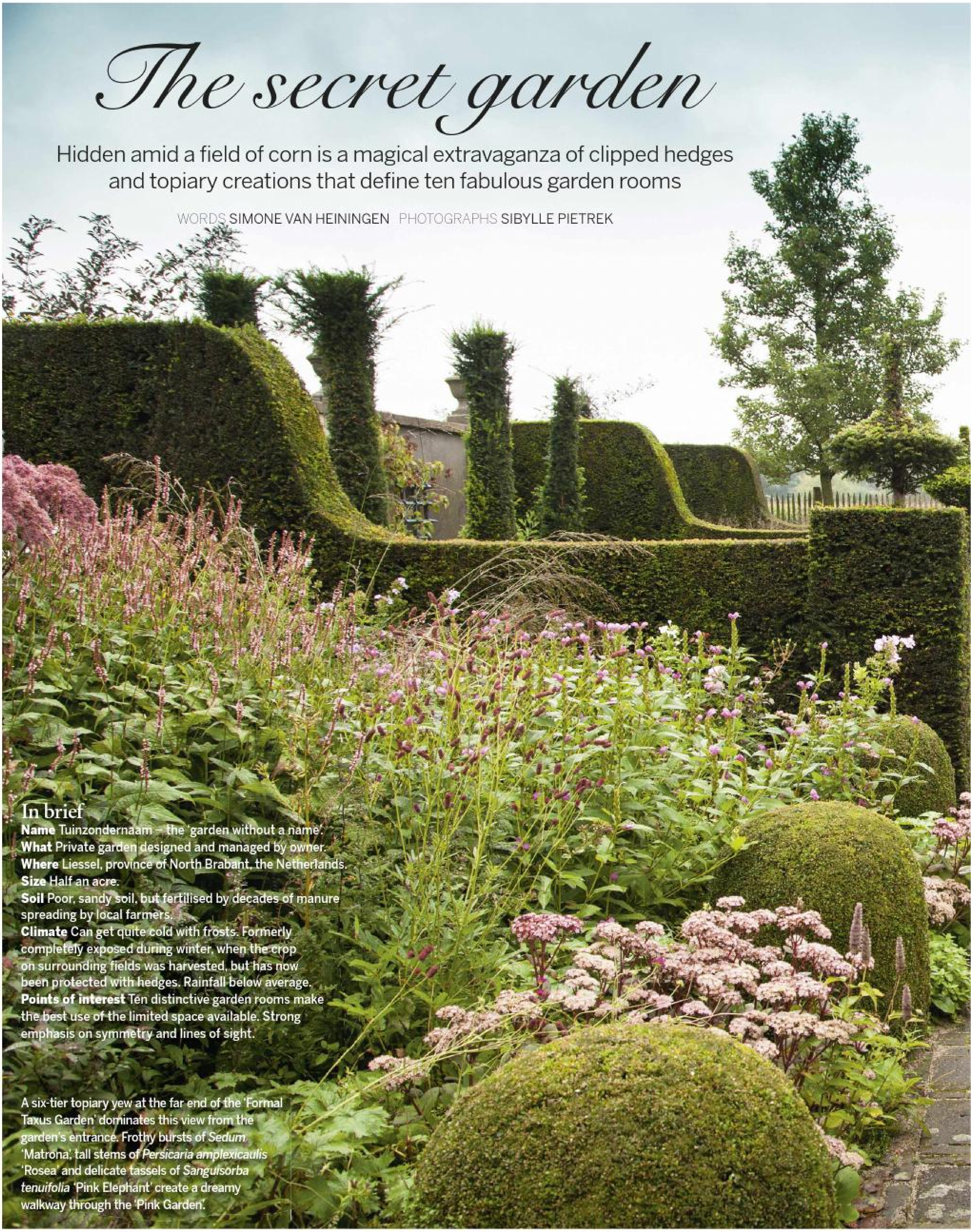
The secret garden

Hidden amid a field of corn is a magical extravaganza of clipped hedges and topiary creations that define ten fabulous garden rooms

WORDS SIMONE VAN HEININGEN PHOTOGRAPHS SIBYLLE PIETREK



In brief

Name Tuinzondernaam – the 'garden without a name'.
What Private garden designed and managed by owner.
Where Liessel, province of North Brabant, the Netherlands.
Size Half an acre.
Soil Poor, sandy soil, but fertilised by decades of manure spreading by local farmers.
Climate Can get quite cold with frosts. Formerly completely exposed during winter, when the crop on surrounding fields was harvested, but has now been protected with hedges. Rainfall below average.
Points of interest Ten distinctive garden rooms make the best use of the limited space available. Strong emphasis on symmetry and lines of sight.

A six-tier topiary yew at the far end of the 'Formal Taxus Garden' dominates this view from the garden's entrance. Frothy bursts of *Sedum* 'Matrona', tall stems of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Rosea' and delicate tassels of *Sanguisorba tenuifolia* 'Pink Elephant' create a dreamy walkway through the 'Pink Garden'.

This is a garden with a clear vision: it is bold, and it is stunningly beautiful

If you decide to visit Frank Thuyls's wonderful garden in say October, and the farmer who owns the surrounding field has decided to plant corn, which he often does, you may have some trouble finding it. Tall stalks of corn so completely surround the tiny house, built during the Second World War by the Germans as an anti-aircraft battery, that it is completely hidden. But once you have found it, you are in for a treat.

When Frank and his late partner, Pierre van Kol, were pondering on a name for their garden, they decided on the modest *Tuinzondernaam* or garden without a name. Yet this garden does not need to hide itself away. It has a clear vision: bold, and quite stunningly beautiful.

Things were very different, when Pierre decided to rent the house more than 35 years ago. It came with barely 400 square metres of land where 20 firs and ten birches were hiding the old gun battery from view. The firs and all but one of the birches got the chop and Pierre and Frank, who joined Pierre six years later, started to transform the place, renting some more land from the farmer and expanding the garden to its current half an acre. While the soil in the Peel region of North Brabant is generally poor, this sandy plot had been fertilised by decades of manure spreading by local dairy farmers.

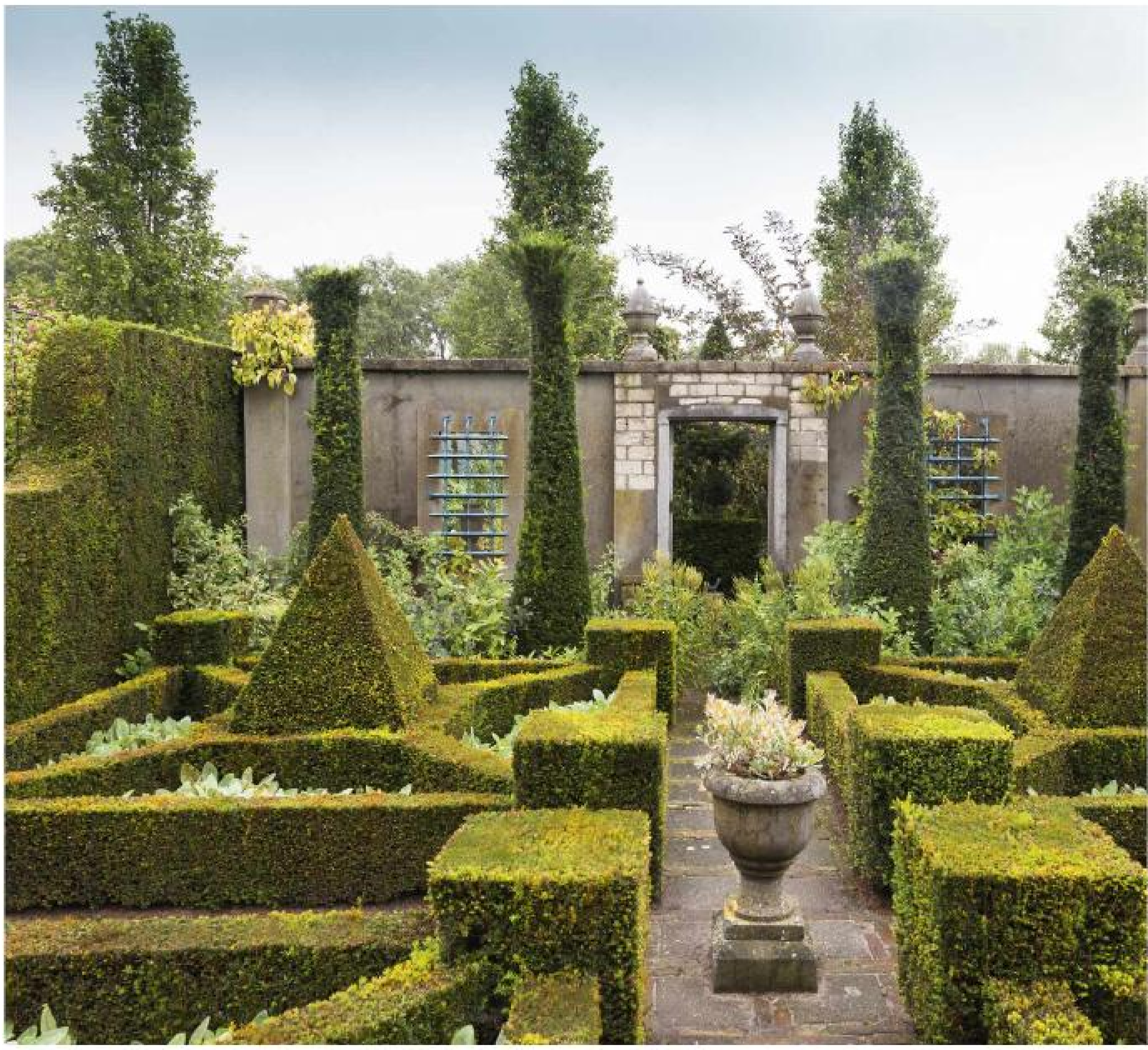
Pierre and Frank planted saplings, such as *Populus alba*, *Sorbus* and *Prunus padus*, which grew to massive proportions within ▷

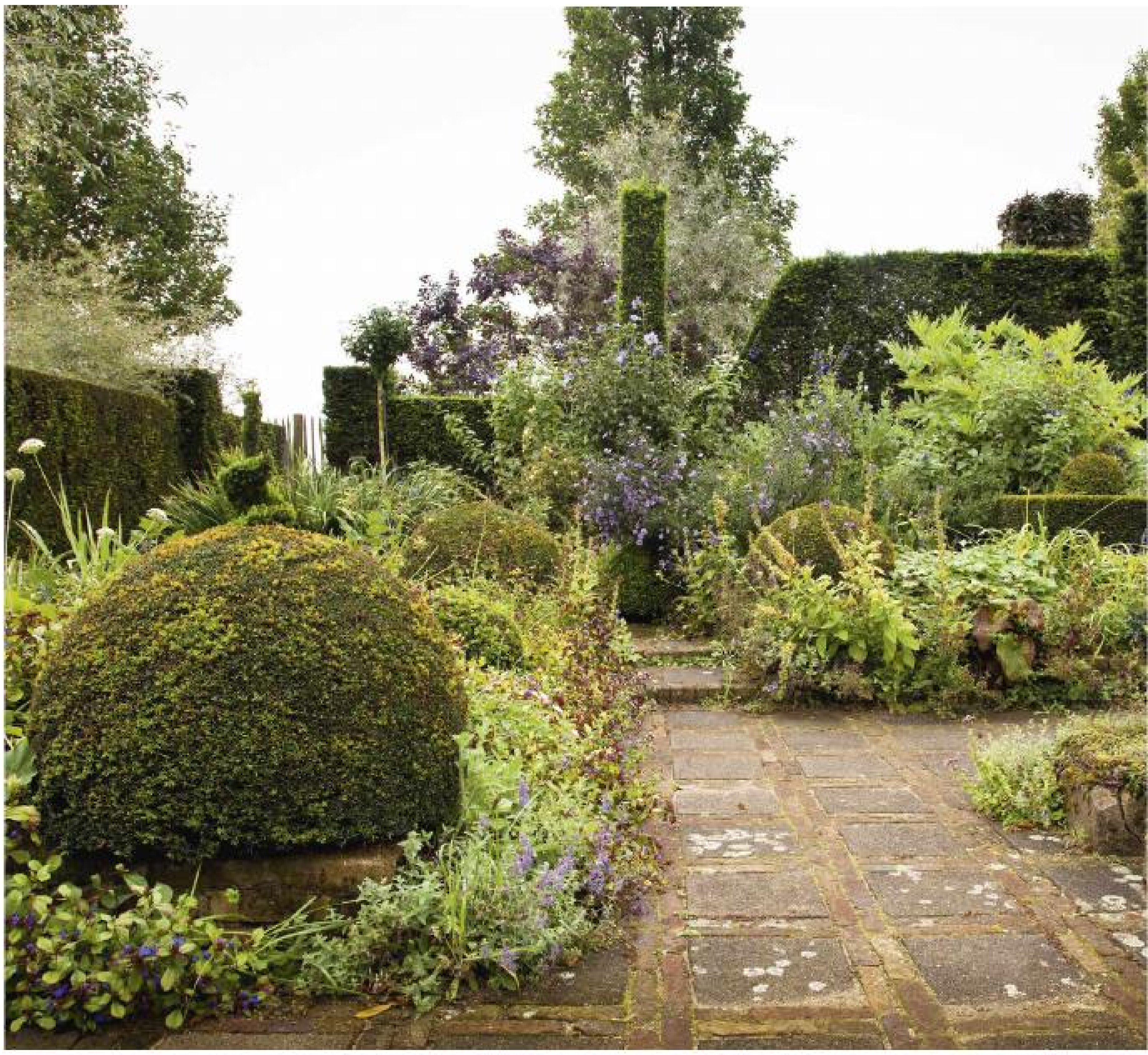
Top left An urn containing a magnificent *Convolvulus cneorum* is the centrepiece of the 'Formal Taxus Garden'.

Top right A striking *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* draws the eye towards a sundial in the 'Burgundy Garden'.

Bottom left A joyful burst of *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Oiseau Bleu' sets the tone for the 'Blue/Cream Garden'.

Bottom right Watched over by four statues, the urn at the centre of the serene 'Rose Garden' holds Pierre's ashes.





> *"In 1992, we visited Ineke Greve's garden in Heerlen. It was an epiphany. Garden rooms!"*

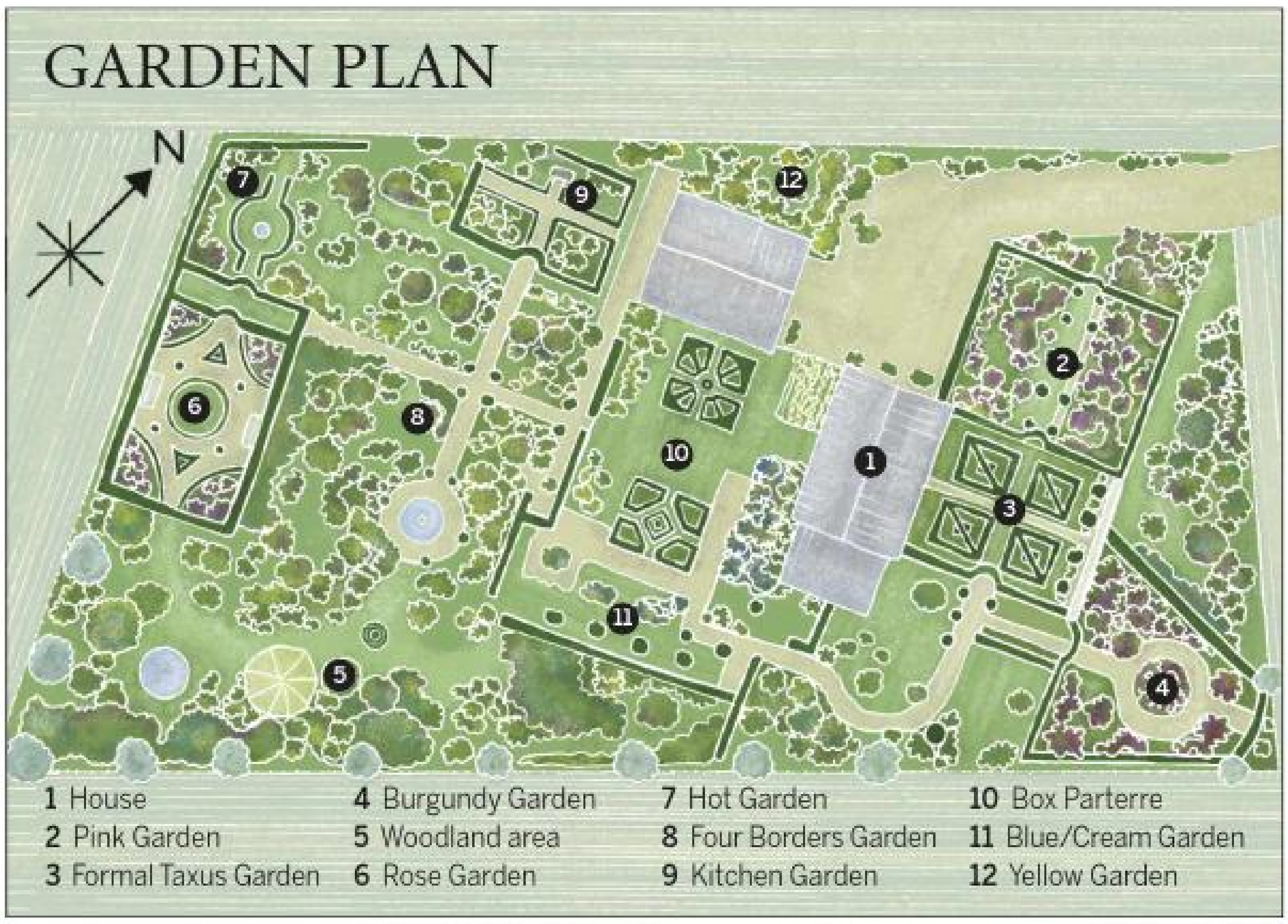
▷ years. "We laid lots of 'romantic' paths, built far too many 'cute' sheds… It was a mess," recalls Frank. "In 1992, we visited Ineke Greve's garden in Heerlen. It was an epiphany. Garden rooms! We had to have garden rooms. So we took everything out and started again. Our new plan drew on the outlines of the house, basically extending the walls using yew and beech hedges, with a strong emphasis on symmetry and lines of sight. We started at the back and worked our way to the front, ending up with ten garden rooms, each with its own character and defined by a different colour."

In spring and summer the romantic 'Pink Garden' is awash with alliums, phlox and persicaria, while the next room is decidedly formal: a topiary parterre out of *Taxus baccata*, whose compartments are filled with white and blue-flowering plants, complemented by *Stachys byzantina* 'Big Ears'. A path edged with *Limonium latifolium*, *Sedum* 'Matrona' and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' leads into the 'Burgundy Garden'. This is where *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple', *Angelica sylvestris* 'Vicar's Mead' and a circle of *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' around a sundial, set the tone.

Turning the corner, along the northeastern side of the plot, you find yourself in more relaxed surroundings. A bark path meanders through woodland, where Black False Hellebore (*Veratrum nigrum*), *Thalictrum*, ferns and elephant's ears grow in the dappled shade of a row of *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'. The path leads to an arbour. Frank looks at the adjacent pond and smiles. "Earlier this year, one visitor was admiring the *Wisteria floribunda* 'Rosea' covering the arbour. She stepped back for a better view and fell headlong into the pond."

Turn right again and a rose garden beckons. By this time of year, most of the ▷

Right Towards the 'Woodland Garden' *Allium tuberosum* and *Verbena bonariensis* dance above seas of *Hakonechloa macra*. In the distance, pink clouds of *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group stand out against 20-year-old *Taxus* pillars.



HANNAH MCVICAR

▷ blooms of *Rosa* Bonica (='Meidomonac') are gone and the garden has returned to its bare but beautiful box bones. The serenity befits the garden's emotions: a Haddonstone vase holds the urn with Pierre's ashes and a wooden bench carries a loving inscription in memory of him. "That's one of the many ideas we got from garden visits to the UK," says Frank. "All those benches everywhere, with inscriptions. Such a lovely idea."

Since Pierre's death, eight years ago, Frank has hardly changed the garden. The fiery 'Hot Garden', the classic 'Kitchen Garden', the 'Four Borders Garden', the 'Yellow Garden', just like in the other rooms their layout and planting schemes have remained basically the same, but the upkeep alone is a task of Herculean proportions. Amazingly, Frank does it all on his own. "It's about perfecting and maintaining what Pierre and I created together." Creating the garden took enormous dedication and, above all, patience, for Mother Nature cannot be forced. Nor, to Frank's dismay, can wildlife. Gardening in the middle of a cornfield poses its challenges, in the form of a deluge of field mice and rabbits. Despite Frank's best efforts they've got the run of the place. "When I'm sitting at the window drinking my morning coffee, I can see them coming in, rubbing their tiny paws with glee. 'What shall we destroy today? Let's go for the dahlias'." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Tuinzondernaam, Astensedreef 3, 5757 SJ Liessel, the Netherlands.
Tel +31 (0)493 34 25 52.
Website tuinzondernaam.nl
Open Check website for dates or contact tuinzondernaam@planet.nl, admittance €6.50 including coffee/tea and slice of 'vlaai'.

FRANK'S TIPS FOR CREATING PERFECT GARDEN ROOMS

1 Use the basic lay-out of your house as your starting point. Draw an outline of your house and the plot it stands on. Extend the lines of the house's outer walls and of inside walls that separate the rooms – provided those rooms have a view of the garden – towards the edges of your plot. If you plant hedges along those lines you will create the effect that each room of your house has a garden room 'built on to it'.
2 Add a focal point – urn, statue, mirror, sundial – at the end of each axis.
3 Use a different, fairly monochromatic, colour scheme for each garden room. This will create an exciting surprise effect when you walk from one room into the next.
4 Be aware that garden rooms with (tall) hedges may pose problems when it comes to symmetry in planting. A garden room may be sunny on one side and shady on the opposite.

8 of Frank's favourite plants at Tuinzondernaam

1 *Sedum* 'Matrona'
A beautiful, late-flowering sedum whose leaves have a striking colour. However, its red stems tend to 'flop over' once it reaches its peak of approx 50cm. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 3b-9b†.

2 *Convolvulus cneorum*
Although you can use it in a border, the fact it is not fully hardy makes it more suitable as a container plant. Its silvery leaves glitter in the sunshine. 45-50cm. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.

3 *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*
Tall, bushy and showy. What else can you expect from an American native? 60cm.

4 *Hydrangea aspera* subsp. *sargentiana*
Easy to grow and it just keeps on flowering. This hydrangea does not need much work: minimal pruning in spring to remove dead and over-long stems. 2.5-4m. RHS H3, USDA 3a-8a.

5 *Taxus baccata*
Taxus baccata is indigenous to the Netherlands so it looks and feels at home. It is almost impossible to kill off. You can really go to town with your pruning shears. Grows to more than 12m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5b-8b.

6 *Clerodendrum bungei*
The least hardy species, but definitely doable. The shiny leaves change colour and smell of peanut butter. 1.8m. USDA 7a-11.

7 *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* 'Atropurpurea Nana'
People tend to overlook *Berberis*, but it is perfect for topiary. This variety grows naturally into a ball shape anyway. 50cm. AGM. RHS H7.

8 *Allium tuberosum*
One of its common names is Chinese chives, but it tastes – and smells – more like garlic. In a warm, secluded spot it may remain green all year round. It's grown here alongside lilac *Verbena bonariensis*, which is perfect for 'weaving' through other plants. 50cm. RHS H3, USDA 4a-8b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

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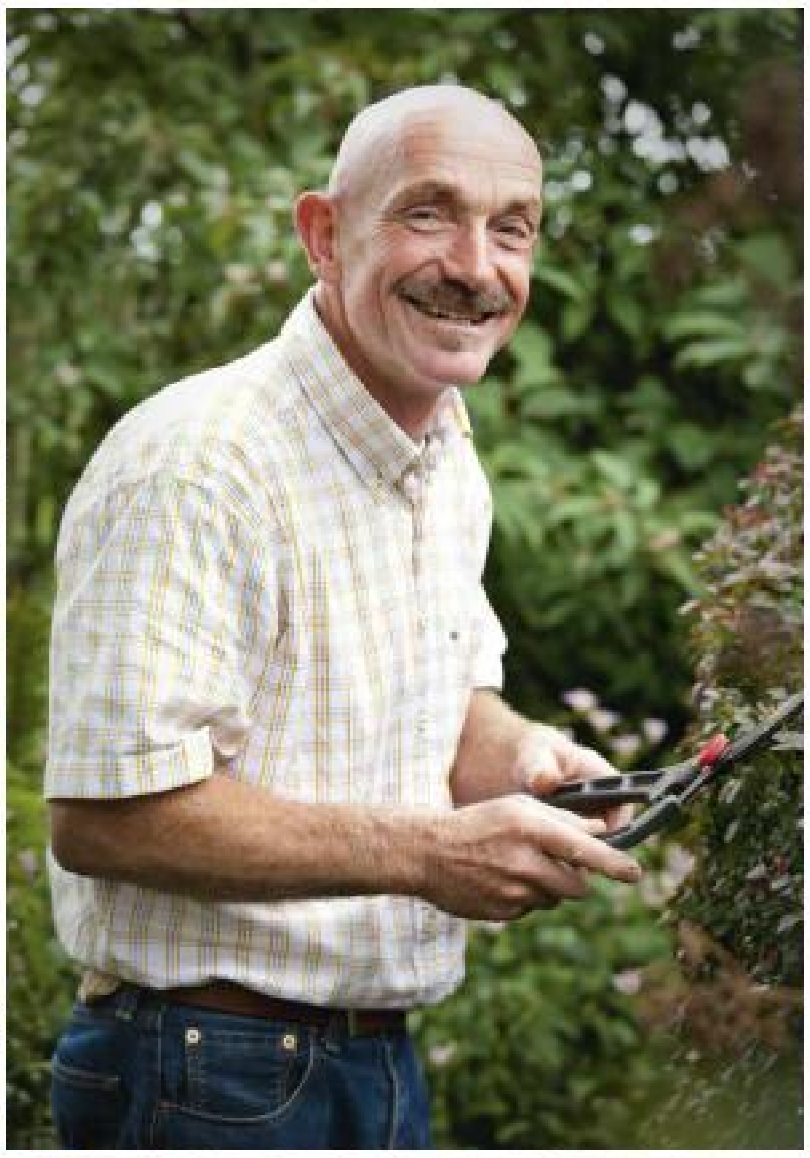

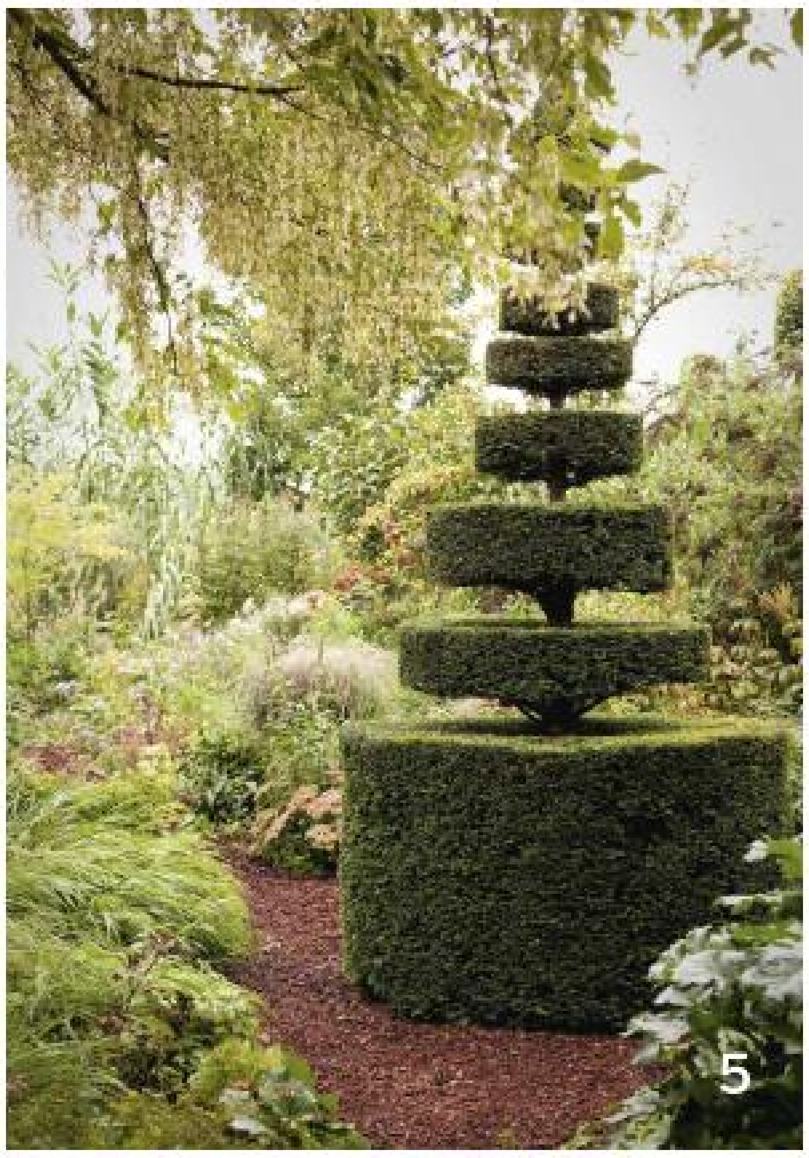
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In brief

Name Special Plants Nursery.
What A small nursery miraculously crammed with exquisitely grown, well-displayed tender and hardy perennials, and herbaceous and rockery plants.
Where Tucked away in the Cotswold Hills just north of Bath.
Size "I've absolutely no idea. We could pace it out."
Climate Above average sun; average rainfall. Sheltered from extremes of weather apart from an occasionally devilish southwest wind.
Compost Derry uses around 20 per cent peat in her own special blend of potting compost – "the compost experts all think I'm insane."
Points of interest Plant paradise for designers and committed gardeners alike.

One small corner of the nursery where *Rudbeckia triloba* and *R. maxima* tangle with tall spires of *Cleome spinosa* 'Helen Campbell', *Verbena bonariensis*, purple rounded heads of *Angelica gigas* and the crimson bracts of *Cautleya spicata*.

A little bit special

What began as a means for Derry Watkins to offload an excess of plants has grown into a nursery bursting with an eclectic and wonderful array of delights

WORDS CAMILLA SWIFT PHOTOGRAPHS REBECCA BERNSTEIN

Derry Watkins is a plantaholic. Her nursery, Special Plants, is pertinently named: "I grow plants I love at the moment," she says. "Anything that takes my fancy, anything I'm crazy about." Stock plants enticingly marked 'not for sale' jostle with neatly potted seedlings that are. The labelling is witty: Tutankhamun's pea – found in his tomb, *Viola* 'Irish Molly' – can flower herself to death, *Thalictrum* 'Splendide' – *T. delavayi* on steroids. You want a quarter of just about everything in this horticultural sweet shop, which bursts with intoxicating colour, variety and plants even an expert gardener may not recognise. This is not the place to go plant hunting with a small car.

Derry is an ebullient American string bean with an infectious seal-bark laugh. Her mother and grandmother were both fanatical about gardening, so as a child, naturally, she hated it. Then she went to Ireland to take photographs for a film she had written on Yeats, and rented a primitive cottage with a forsaken garden. The genes kicked in. She stopped taking photographs, spent the summer rescuing plants and returned to the USA, obsessed with growing things. There she set up a biodynamic vegetable garden and met the English architect Peter Clegg. She married him and they came to England to a house with an acre and a half of land. "But I didn't want an acre and a half of veg," she says, so she started gardening. They built the dream greenhouse, stretching the entire length of a south-facing wall, half buried and opening straight into the house "never too hot, never too cold. It was perfect. Oh, how I loved that greenhouse." And that's where her passion for tender plants took hold.

She started her nursery 25 years ago. "I couldn't help myself," she says. "I grew too many plants. I had to get rid of them somehow." She toyed with the idea of annuals but why have one month of colour when you can have five? Tender plants are just more beautiful, she says, they bloom far longer than their hardy cousins and their foliage is more interesting. She is, she claims, an unsophisticated, vulgar gardener, who just adores flowers and colour: "Especially bruised colours, purpley muddy grey, like rotting meat." Her perpetual quest for new plants is obsessive. She'll search everywhere, other people's gardens, supermarkets, roadsides and out in the wilds abroad. South Africa is a particular favourite, so much of it still botanically unmapped. Determined to find a plant-free holiday she went to Nepal in winter (she and Peter like mountain walking) yet still managed to come back with some interesting seeds. "I'll collect seed with no idea whether it's worth growing. I just grow it on for a year or two and find out." If she went on a cruise she'd probably unearth something enthralling in the salad. "I can't keep my hands off plants. I'm addicted and greedy."

On a recent expedition to Turkey with nurseryman Bob Brown, she was thrilled ▷

You want a quarter of just about everything in this horticultural sweet shop. This is not the place to go plant hunting with a small car

▷ to find a new umbel: *glaucosciadium cordifolium* with insignificant flowers, but fabulous blue-grey leaves.

While she loves collecting, cleaning and selling seeds, she's far too impatient to grow them. What she lives for is taking cuttings. "The total magic of those little roots appearing after ten days, then a sturdy little plant not a weedy seedling." She takes cuttings from April to October, potting them up in her specially mixed compost with a good, slow-release fertiliser and hand waters them all. Hand watering, she says, makes you take notice of your plants. This summer she reckons she would have spent nine hours a day watering if she'd been on her own: "It was like the Forth Bridge." Luckily, she has "dozens" of willing part-time helpers; the equivalent of about five full-time staff in the summer for the nursery, the garden and the office together, reduced to one in winter.

Ninety per cent of the plants she sells come from her greenhouse or the garden. They are constantly evolving. "I get easily bored," she says. "I'm very unfaithful. Actually I'm ruthless." She will chuck perfectly good plants out of her garden because they bore her. Rather than gardening heroes it is books that have truly inspired her, in particular, Eleanor Perenyi's *Green Thoughts*, *The Gardening Year* by Karel Capek, and Michael Pollan's *Second Nature* – "I love a gardening book that doesn't tell you how but why," she says. But she only ever gets to read on holiday, because while there are alluring new plants still to discover the indefatigable Derry Watkins will never rest. □

• Turn the page for a selection of Derry's favourite plants .

USEFUL INFORMATION

Special Plants, Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8LA.

Tel 01225 891686.

Website specialplants.net

Open Nursery: 10am-5pm, March – October. Derry's garden is also open: 11am-5pm, (Tuesdays April – mid-October), Tuesday and Wednesday (July – September). NGS opening: third Thursday of the month, June – October. Groups of six or more welcome on other days by arrangement. £4.50 (£25 for season ticket).

Find out more about Derry Watkin's favourite plants when she takes over our Nurseryman's Favourites series, starting in the February 2014 issue.

READER TOUR

Special Plants is one of the locations we'll be visiting on the five-day GARDENS ILLUSTRATED reader tour of Somerset gardens in June 2014. See page 8 for more details.

1 Derry Watkins with the tools of her trade in the greenhouse devoted to her beloved tender perennials.

2 Small rusted figures dance among grasses and the purple caster oil plant *Ricinus communis* 'New Zealand Black' with their "good bruised colours" favoured by Derry.

3 The nursery's entrance where a loose tapestry of *Rudbeckia triloba*, *Actaea simplex* 'Pink Spike' and *Cautleya spicata* entices you in.

4 *Allium senescens* is just one of ten different types of allium seeds available at Special Plants.

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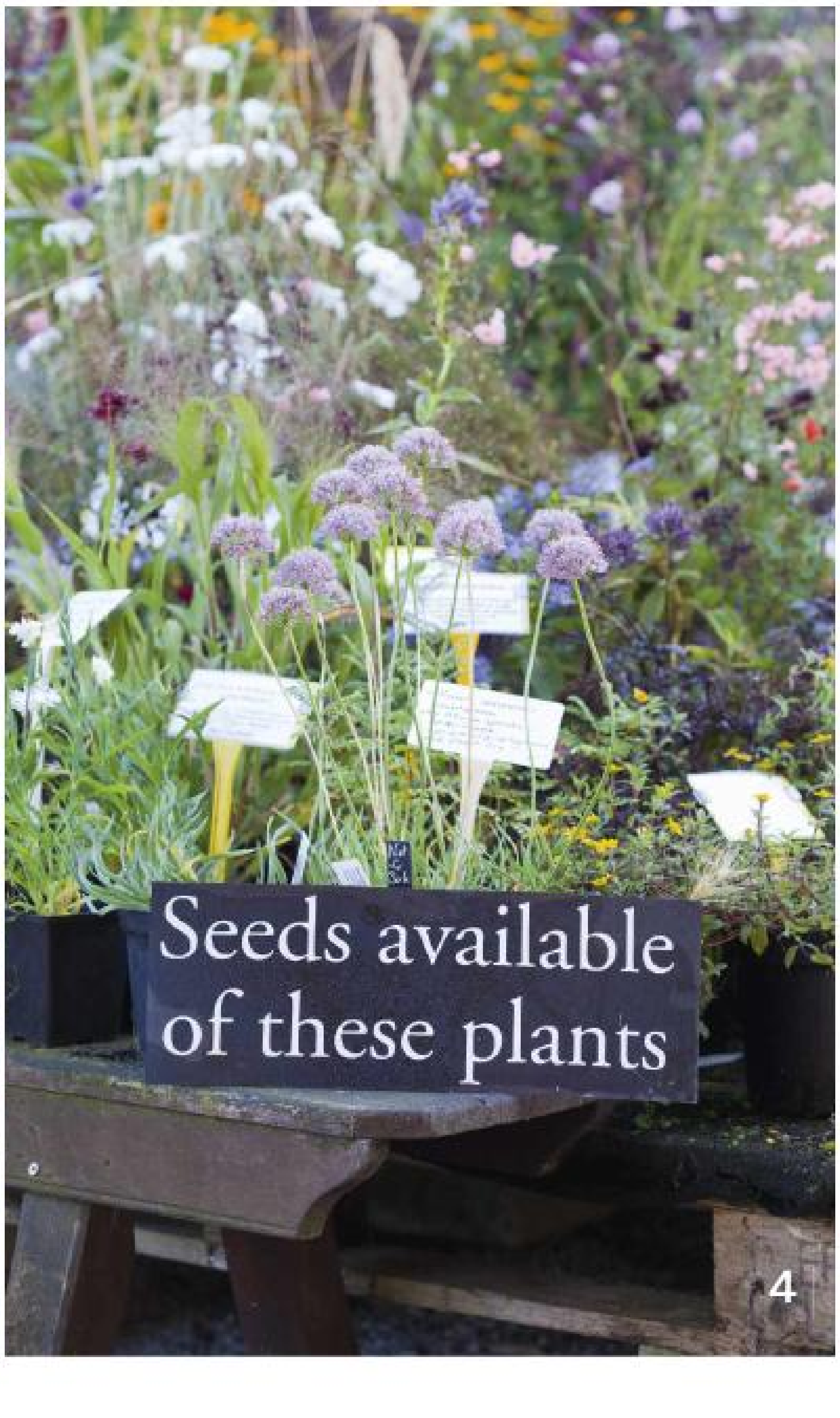
Seeds available
of these plants

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12 of Derry's favourite plants

1 *Polygala × dalmaisiana*
Compact evergreen tender shrub that flowers year round in the greenhouse. Charming pink flowers look like little sweet peas with white beards, pretty grey-green foliage. Good for greenhouses. 1.5m. AGM*. RHS H2, USDA 9b†.

2 *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch'
Big golden yellow shiny flowers like everlastings sit above stout stems and large, greyish green leaves. Tender. 60cm.

3 *Coronilla valentina* subsp. *glauca* 'Citrina' AGM
Narcissi-scented pale yellow pea flowers principally in winter and spring; glaucous leaves. Prefers well-drained soil in full sun. Borderline hardy perennial. Good for coastal and windy gardens.
60cm. AGM. RHS H4.

4 *Amicia zygomeris*
Weird but beautiful folded leaves, large purple stipules, undistinguished yellow pea flowers, tall and unearthly. Prefers sun and good drainage, borderline hardy.
2.5m. RHS H2, USDA 7b.

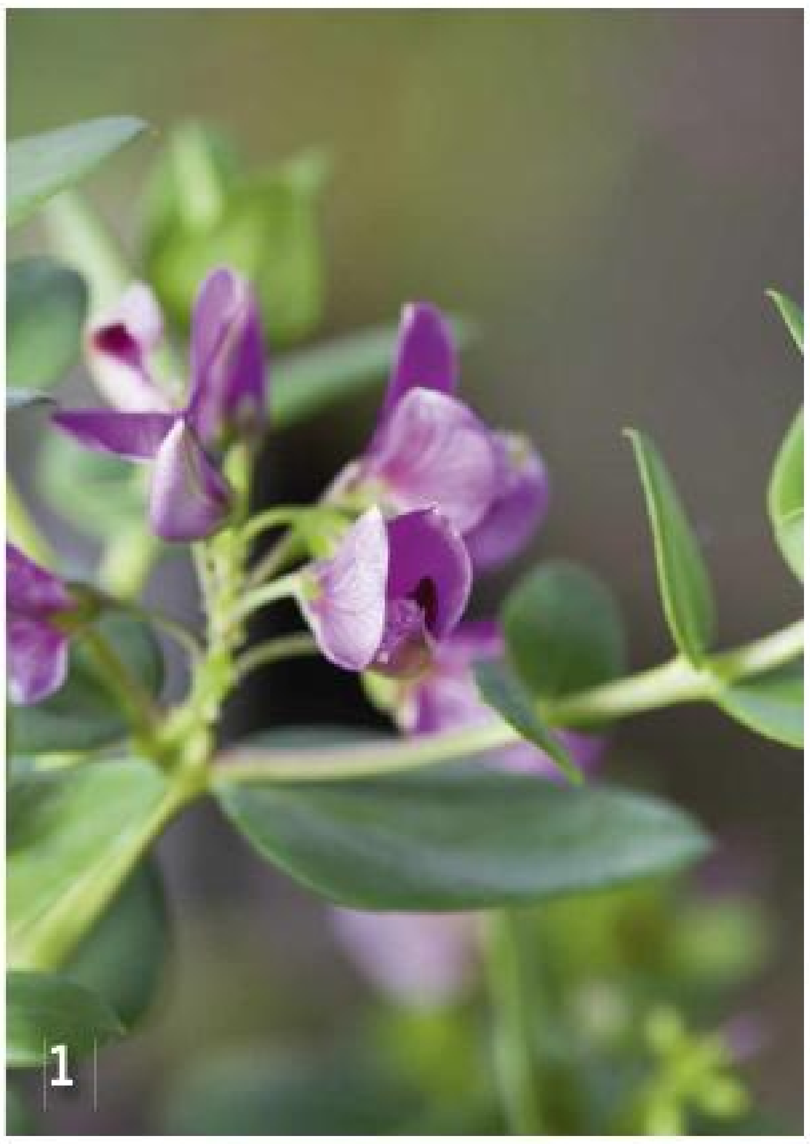
5 *Lobelia × speciosa* 'Hadspen Purple'
Brilliant purple flowers in August, likes moist rich soil, winter mulch. 90cm.

6 *Anemone hupehensis* f. *alba*
Most beautiful Chinese anemone I know, originally wild collected. Pure white, very round flower with purple-flushed reverse. Blooms September. Not invasive. 90cm.

7 *Hedysarum coronarium*
The French honeysuckle is neither French nor a honeysuckle. Big bright-red clover-like flowers above handsome leaves. Needs sun and good drainage. Short-lived, but easy.
60-90cm. USDA 4a-9b.

8 *Salvia* 'Amistad'
A new hybrid with deep purple flowers and black calyces. Flowers from May until November. Borderline hardy. 1.2m.

9 *Pericallis lanata* (formerly *Senecio heritieri*)
Tiny creeping plant with silver leaves and mauve flowers. Grows at 200-600m on cliffs and walls in south Tenerife. Flowers winter to spring. Tender. 5-10cm.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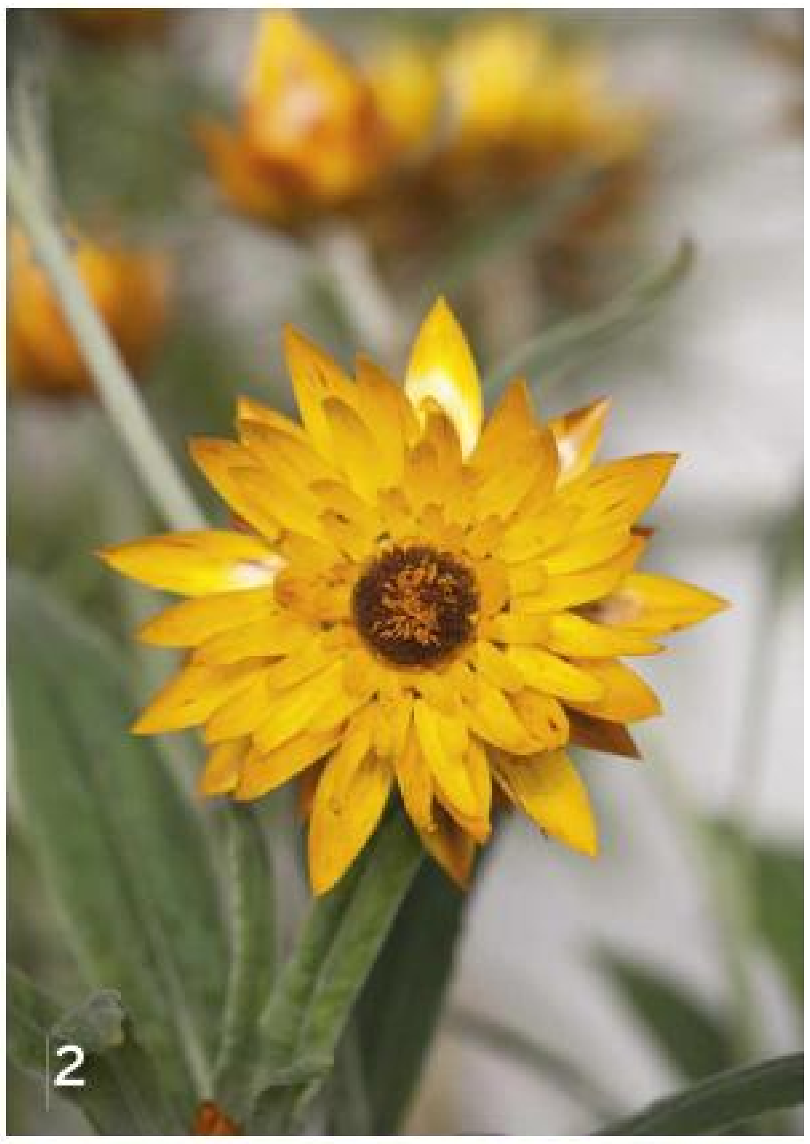
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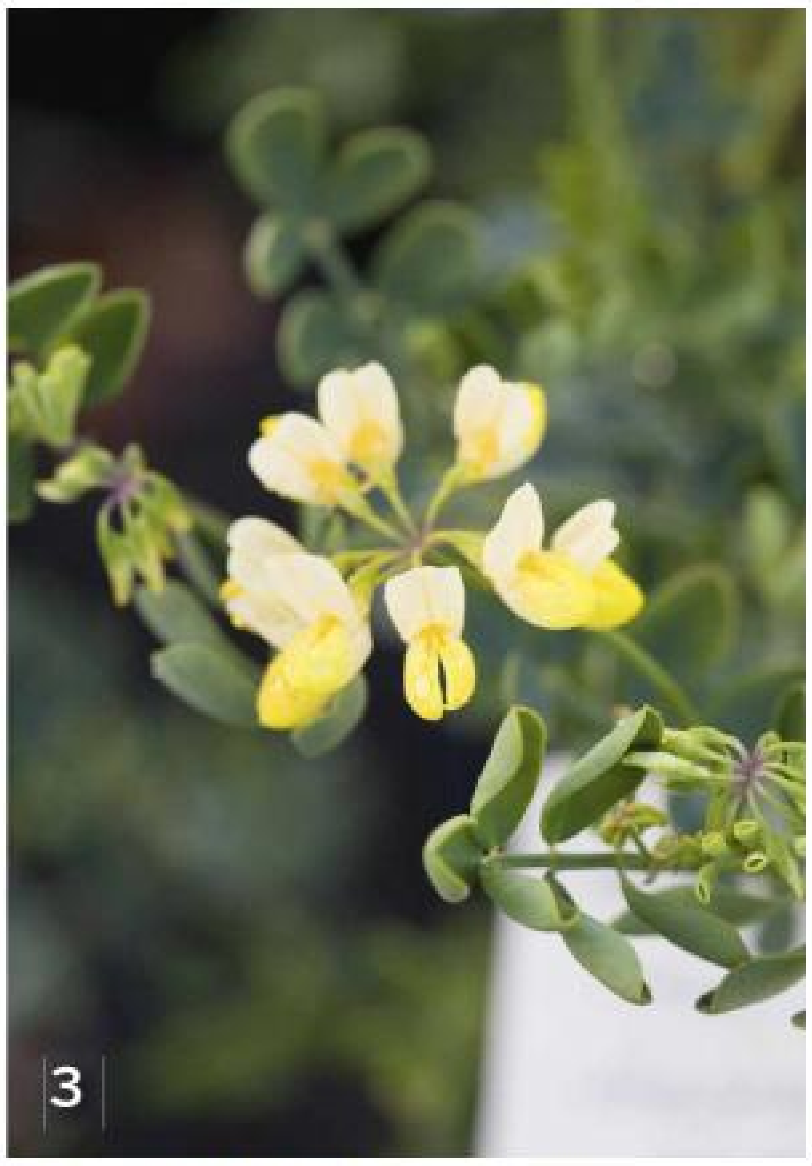
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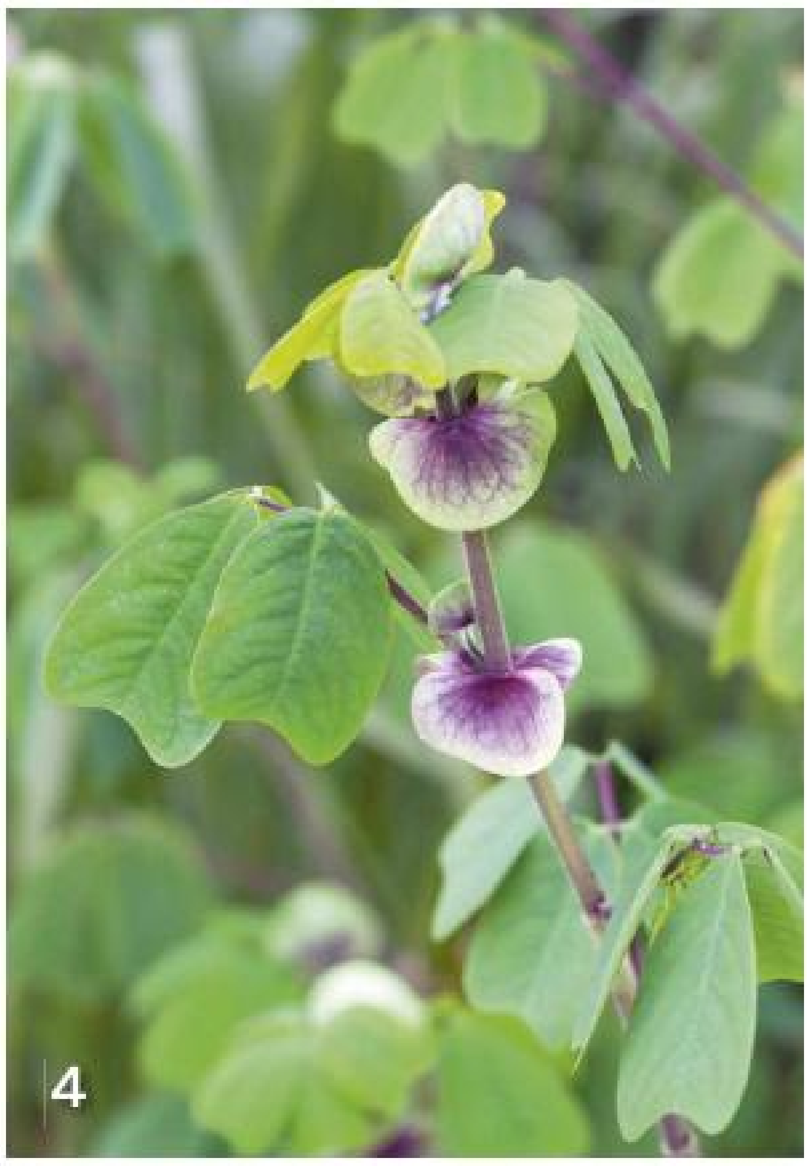
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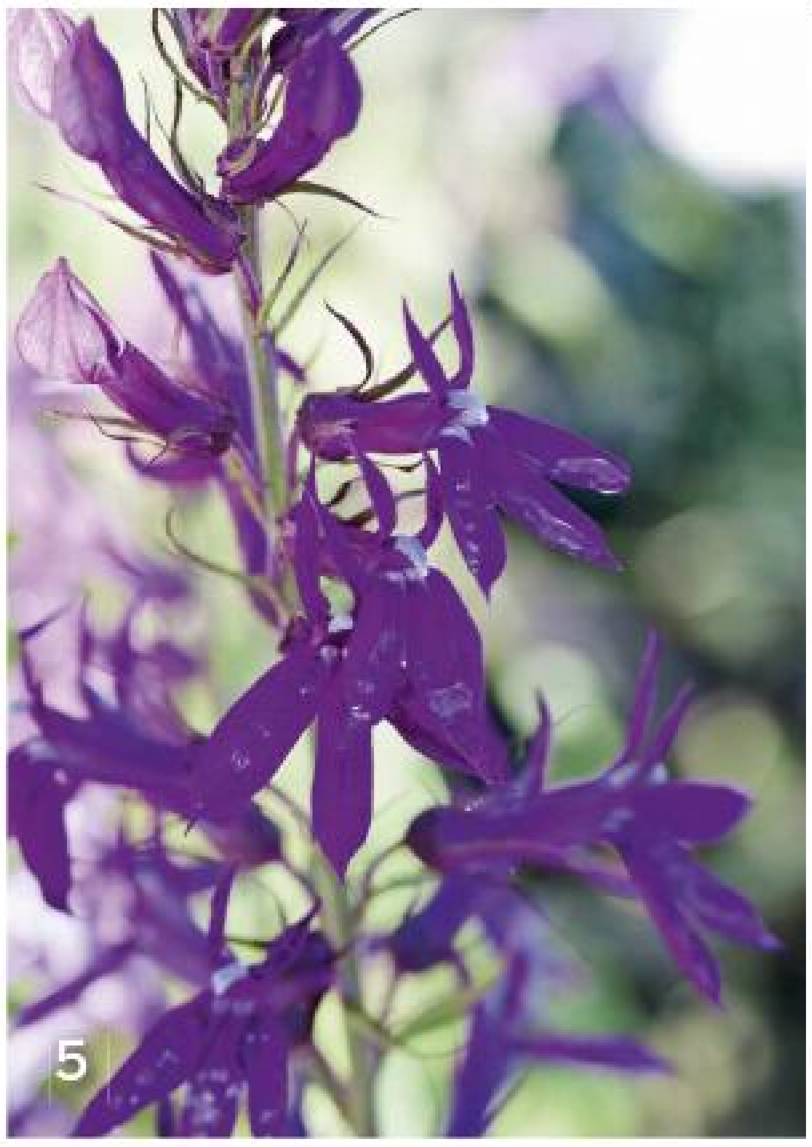
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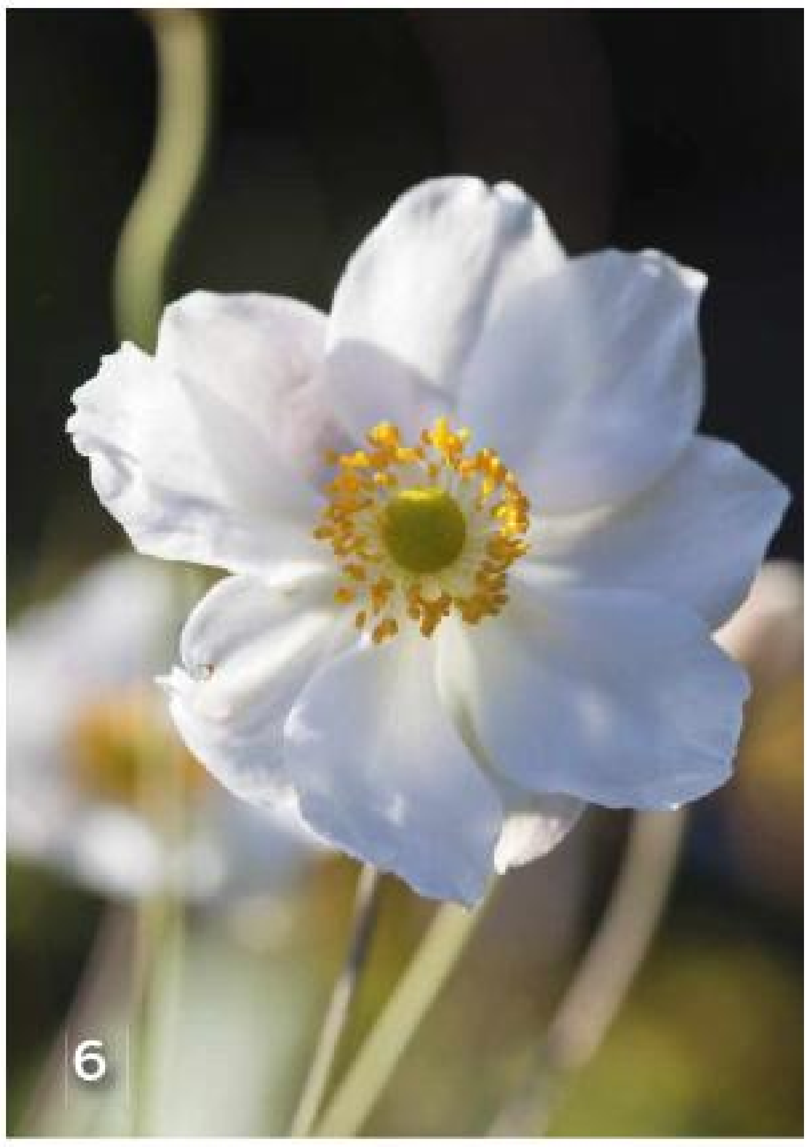
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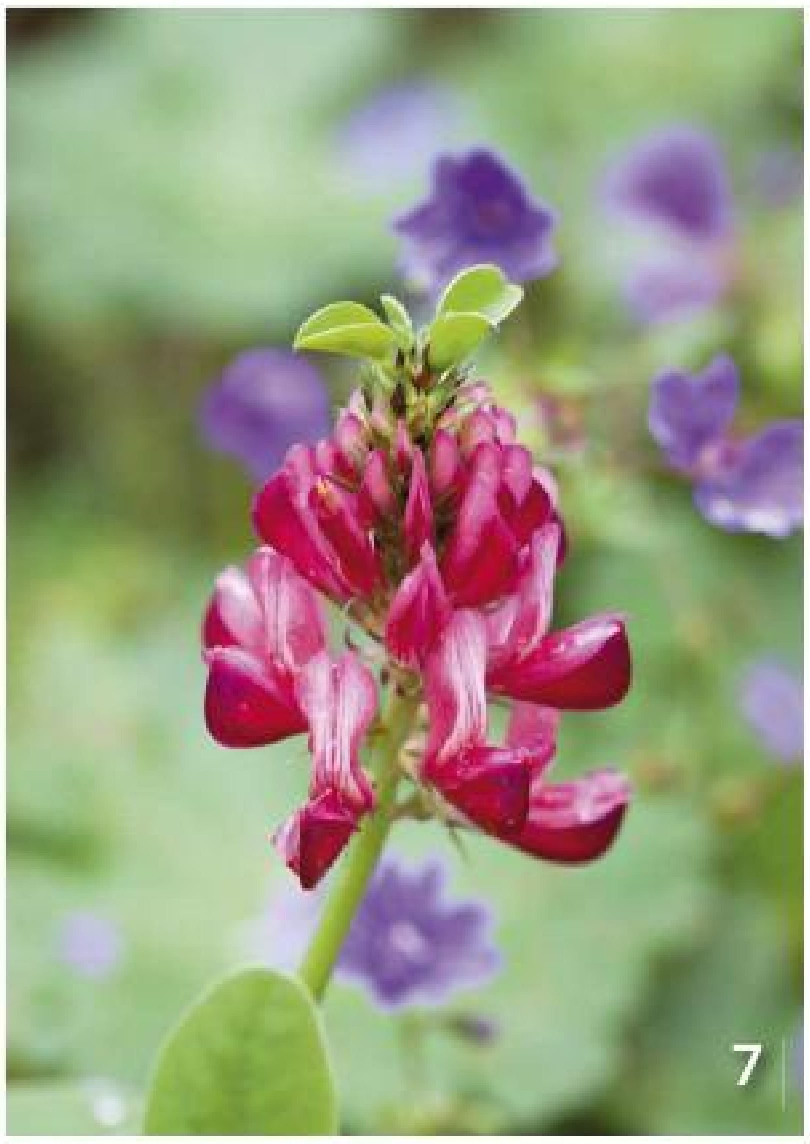
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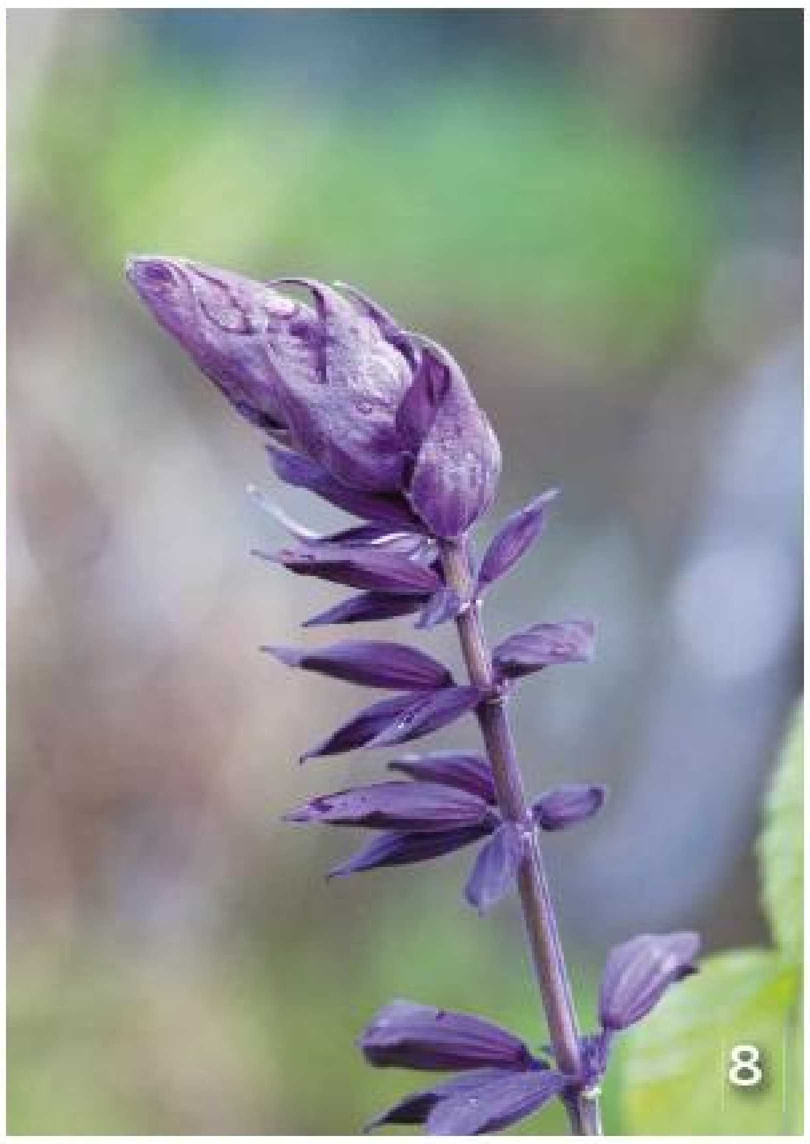
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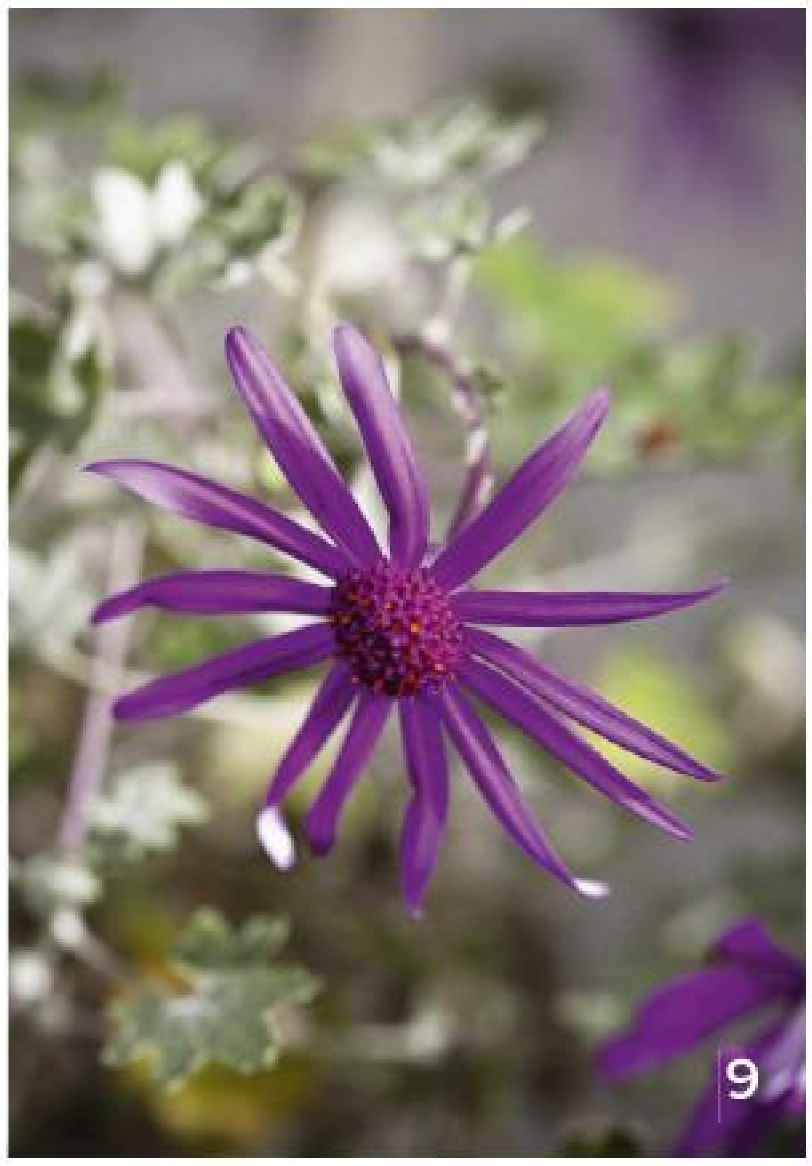
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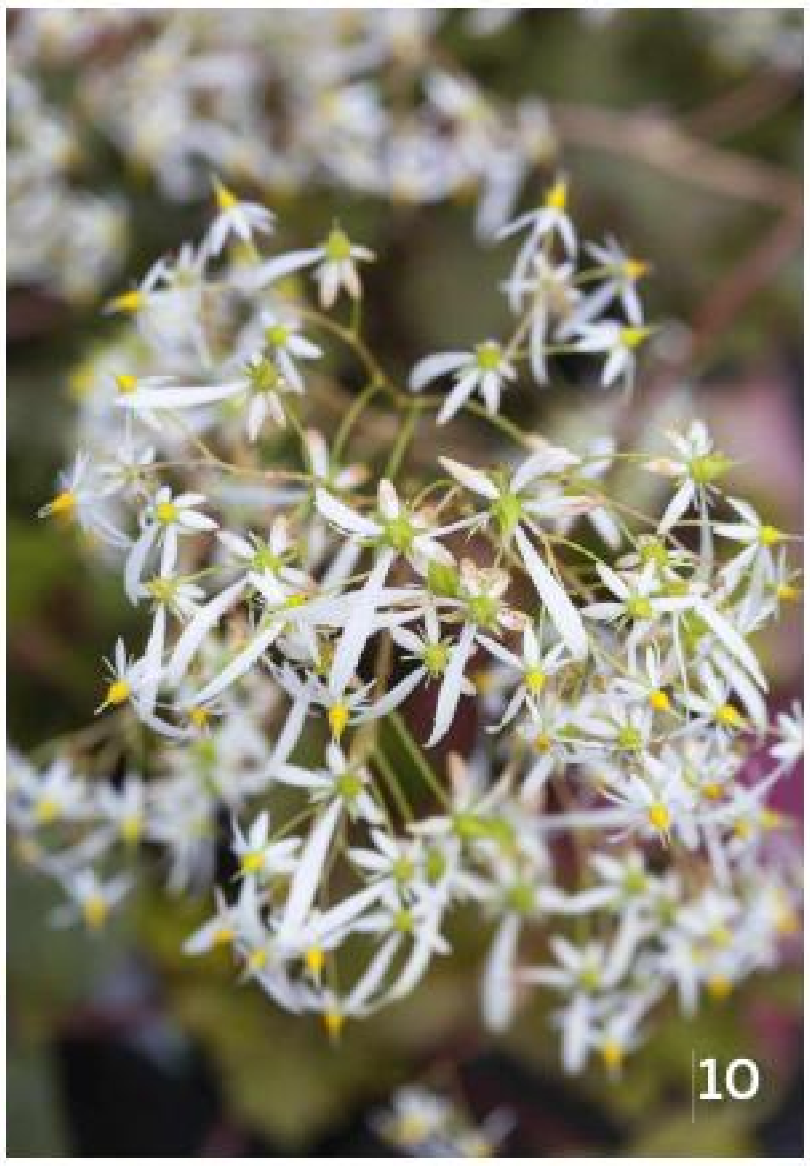
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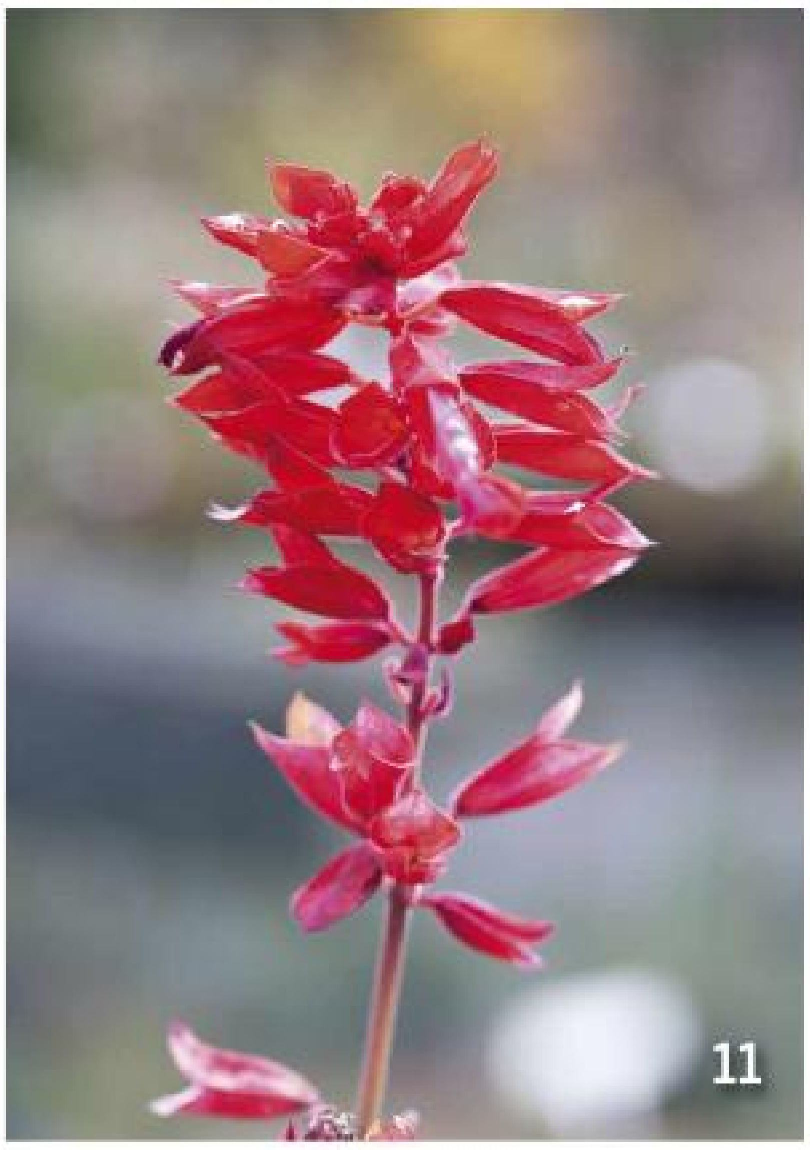
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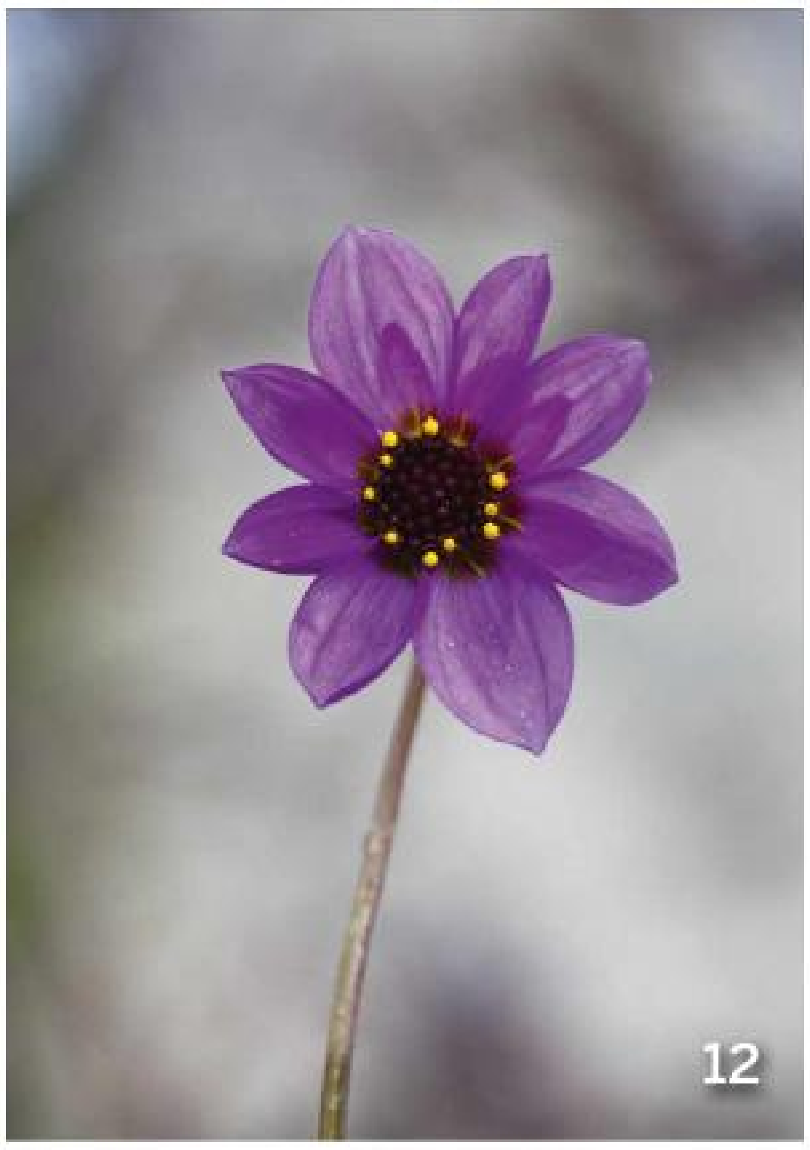
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10 *Saxifraga* 'Rubrifolia' (*fortunei*)
One of the best, if little known, saxifrages. Starry white flowers froth out from scalloped, bronzy-red leaves in late autumn. Good for gloomy shade. 15-30cm. USDA 6a-8b.

11 *Salvia splendens* 'Jimi's Good Red'
Bright red, early blooming. 90cm.

12 *Dahlia merckii*
Single lavender flowers on 1m stems. Graceful. Likes sun and good drainage. Hardy perennial.

Derry's top tips

1 Gravel Make it really deep (15-20cm). Thin layers of stones will encourage every self-seeder for miles.

2 Florist's scissors are a must-have gardening tool. The pointed ends are much better for weeding than a trowel.

3 Plastic pots inside terracotta. It's easier to move plants around and they retain the water.

4 Don't grow anything you don't like. You look after the things you love better.

5 Stake early. Use metal rings followed by hazel twigs. If the centre of the plant is stable it won't fall over. Your borders might briefly resemble a field of metallic crop circles, but they'll be quickly covered.

6 Chelsea chop. Carry out this vital prune for most plants in mid May.

7 Large plants in a small space. Plant a lot of whatever it is. Make it big and punchy.

8 To get height and drama from annuals, sow in September and overwinter in a frost-free position. Planted out in April they'll be monsters by June.

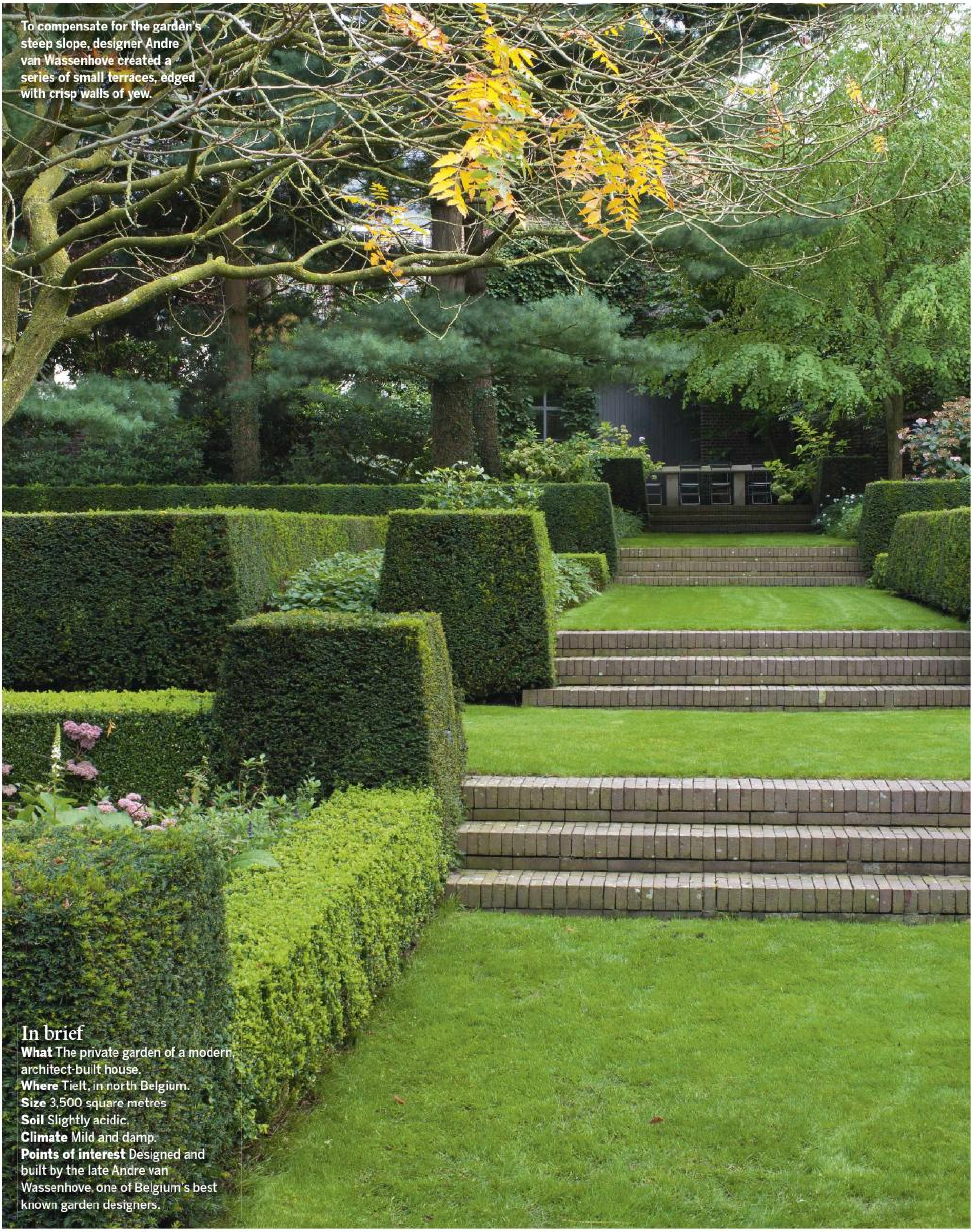
9 With forethought and a sharp knife in September propagate all the tender perennials you want for the following year.

10 Whenever you pass a plant pull off a dead leaf. That together with good ventilation helps prevent mould.

11 Never let the garden get ahead of you. Cut hard back before the last flowers. Have something lined up to fill any holes.

12 Remember, weeding is a pleasure when titivating; a drag when rescuing.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



To compensate for the garden's steep slope, designer Andre van Wassenhove created a series of small terraces, edged with crisp walls of yew.

In brief

What The private garden of a modern, architect-built house.
Where Tielt, in north Belgium.
Size 3,500 square metres
Soil Slightly acidic.
Climate Mild and damp.
Points of interest Designed and built by the late Andre van Wassenhove, one of Belgium's best known garden designers.

Lines of beauty

Using crisp, clean lines of box and yew, the late designer Andre van Wassenhove has created a verdant garden of serene beauty to match its house's sleek architecture

WORDS LIA LEENDERTZ PHOTOGRAPHS MARIANNE MAJERUS

On stepping through the door of Luc and Roos Pollets' north Belgium home, the garden appears straight ahead like a gleaming green fourth wall. The house was built by a local architect in 1974 and is sleek and bold, with the far wall almost entirely made of glass. On an overcast, slightly damp day, the garden glows and the glass could almost be emerald. "The garden suits the weather here," says Luc, glancing skyward, and it is true that a place that depends so heavily on the subtle differences between crisp blocks of yew, box and lawn would fail in heat and stark light. It is a garden for drizzle.

The slick finish belies the garden's slow and careful creation. It has the sharpness and swagger of a show garden and yet was designed incrementally, through visit after visit, over the course of a year. Its designer was the late Andre van Wassenhove, the celebrated Belgian garden designer and creator of a garden for Belgium's queen. "Andre never came here and said: 'We'll put this here, here and here, and we'll cut down all that'," says Luc. "No, he walked, he looked, he considered, he did little things then returned and saw how they worked. He worked in a special way."

Perhaps as a result of Belgium's famously flat landscape, this was the first garden Andre had worked on that sloped upwards from the house. "And it is an awkward slope," says Roos. "It's steeper on the left, and the wall curls in on both sides." Andre solved the problem by creating three shallow terraces – hence the window-filling view – and using hedging as imaginary retaining walls. There are no walls other than the original tile-topped garden wall, which Andre asked them to restore, but between each terrace Andre planted double rows of yew, with those at the back shorter than at the front. Over the years they have been clipped into a form as visually solid as brick.

Next to the house this formality of hedge and lawn rules – "I never see a weed when I'm looking from the house," says a pleased Roos – but further out Andre created a number of borders that he filled with different groupings of plants. One contains alliums, hostas and tiarella, another verbascum, sedum and rodgersia. The majority of the plants are in pale colours, one of the few steers the couple gave Andre, as Roos is particularly fond of whites and pastels. "We didn't ask for much," says Luc. We just said 'make us a beautiful garden.' He was an artist, we wanted to give him carte blanche."

Andre was particularly careful when it came to the removal of trees. "Before, this garden was uncultivated," says Roos. "There were many trees but they were not lovely. But Andre would cut one then wait, cut another then wait. He wanted to keep that privacy." The garden is bang in the centre of town, 50m from the main market and surrounded on all sides by houses, ▷

It has the sharpness and swagger of a show garden yet it grew incrementally, through visit after visit, over the course of a year

▷ but there is no sense of this, the original trees help to create a hidden world. The formality of the garden dissolves almost completely at its furthest reaches, turning into a woodland garden with an understory of choice woodland plants, *Rhododendron*, *Hamamelis*, *Enkianthus* and *Kalmia*.

Maintenance is important here, and while Luc takes care of the lawn, Andre's son Wim visits twice a year to trim the hedges, using his father's laser guide to keep the hedges crisp and sharp. It is a link back to Andre that the Pollets clearly cherish. "No one else could do it right," says Luc. "It has to be Wim."

The couple have lovingly preserved the plans and planting lists Andre made for them – each typed out on wafer-thin paper on an old-fashioned typewriter – and they produce them proudly. Their affection for him is clear and touching, and their faces light up when they talk about him. "He was a special man," says Roos, "simple and unpretentious. All women loved him." She tells of how he was as happy doing manual work as designing, and often worked alongside her. "He is always there with me now when I weed the borders and care for the garden," she says.

Andre also gave Luc and Roos one very clear instruction for their garden: "He told us we should walk in the garden every day," says Luc. "He knew we were not really gardeners but he said our part was to walk around it and to look at it every day. He set out the beautiful paths made of thousands of little bricks just so we could, and so that's exactly what we do. Every day."

Luc and Roos have no plans to make any changes. "Why would we?" asks Roos. "It is complete. We just like to keep it exactly as Andre created it." ◻

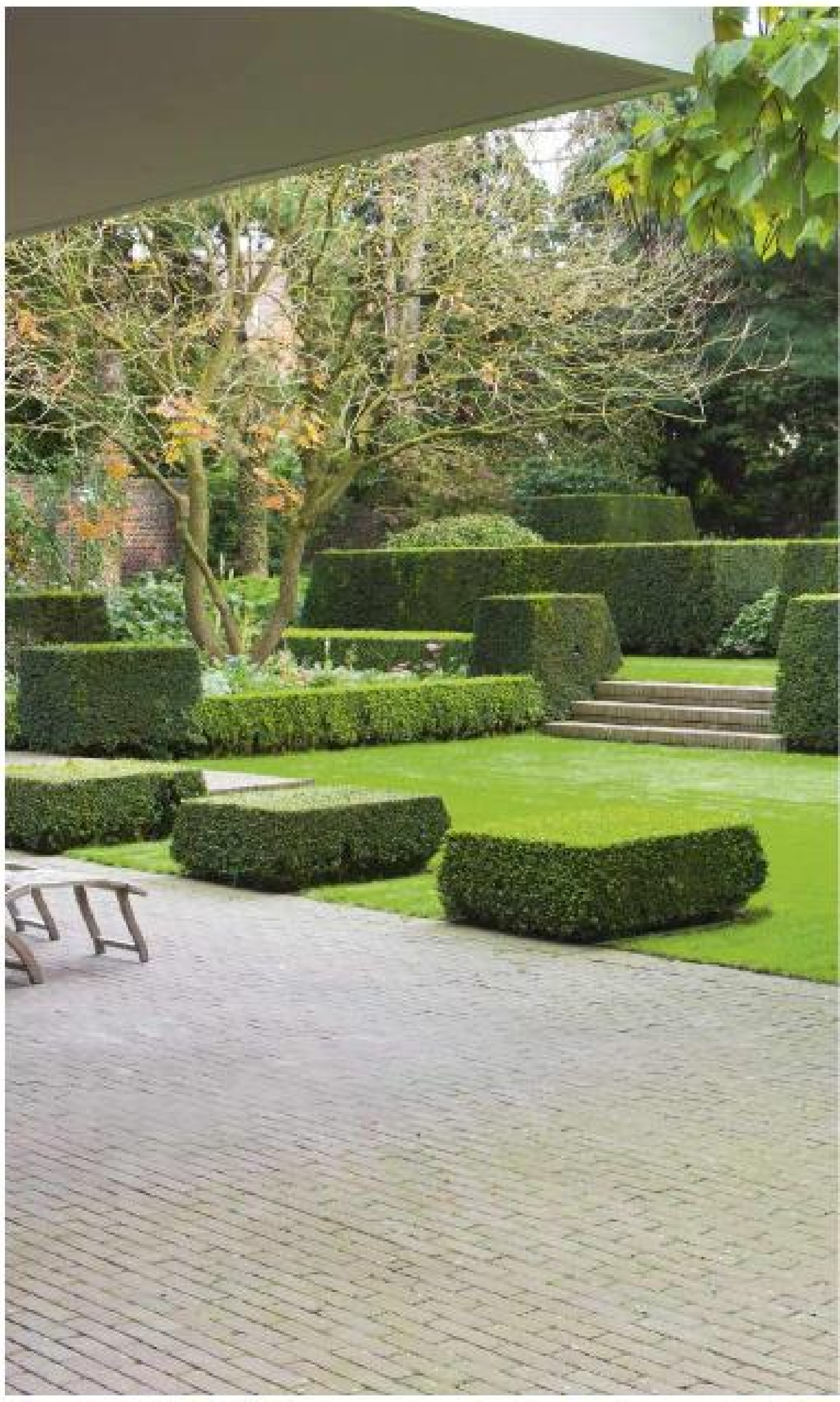
How to create seasonal colour in an evergreen garden

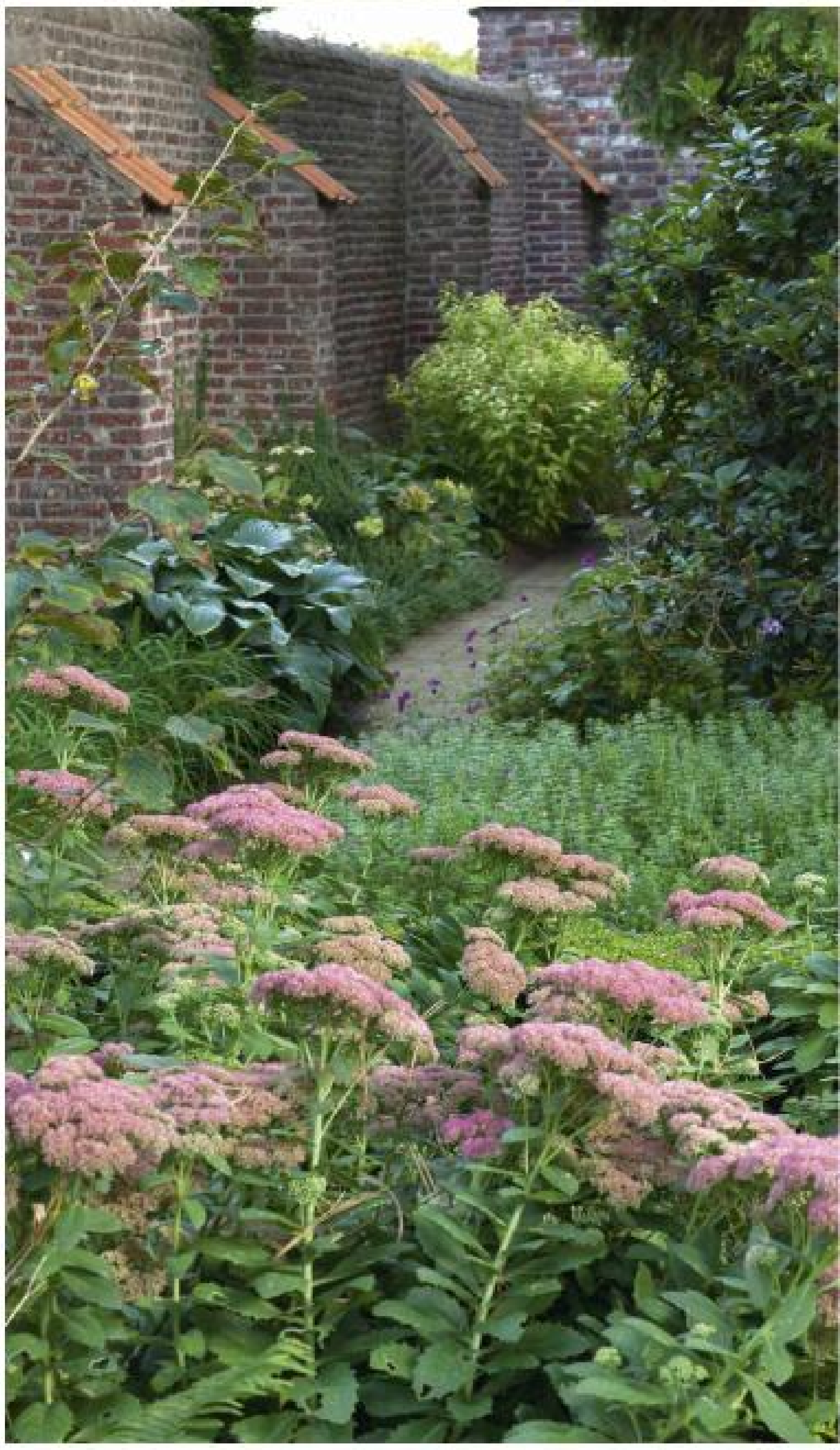
- Create pockets of seasonal colour that will light up at different times of the year and then fade back to green. Andre used a block of *Liriope* towards the woodland part of the garden, which flowers in spring, but provides good green leaf the rest of the year.

- Keep colours subtle and pale. Andre kept to a palette of mostly pastels and whites, including salmony pink sedums in borders and tubs of palest pink *Hydrangea aspera* subsp. *sargentiana* on the terrace at the far end of the garden.

- Stick to blocks of perennials rather than a mix of plants. Andre created a large rectangle of *Epimedium* to separate the lawn from the box hedge. It is a sea of green for most of the year but erupts into flower in spring and leaf colour in autumn while hedge and lawn stay constant.

- Choose trees and shrubs for their colour. Andre planted a beautiful *Catalpa bignonioides* 'Aurea' outside the house and dotted *Parrotia persica*, *Liquidambar*, *Cornus kousa* and *Cercidiphyllum* around the perimeter. Most produce spectacular red, yellow and orange leaves in autumn, while the *Cornus kousa* bears large white flowers in spring.



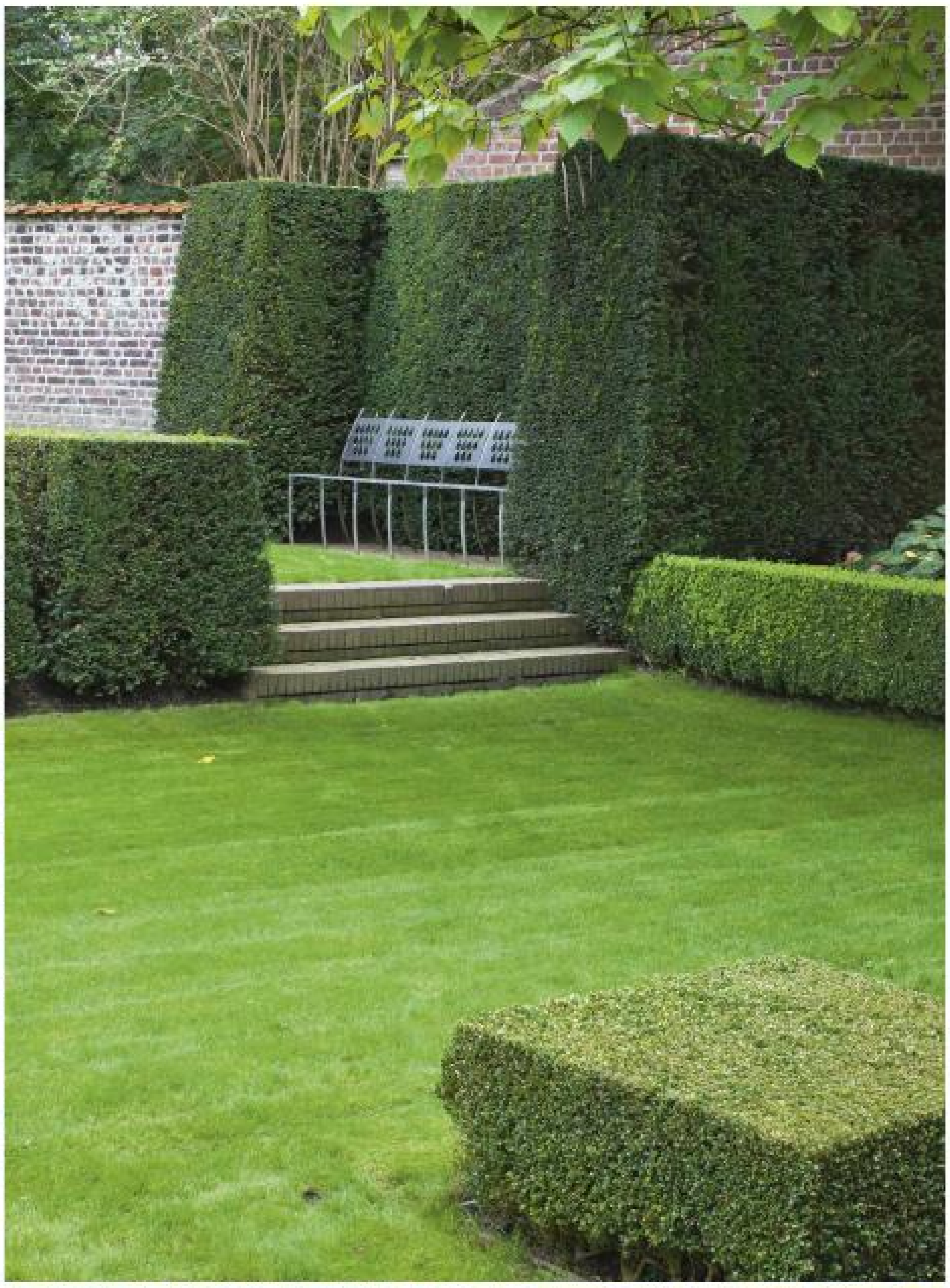


Top left Andre built in several seating areas, from which Luc and Roos could enjoy their garden.

Top right A bench Andre designed especially for the garden nestles into a yew alcove.

Bottom left Towards the edge of the garden, borders have softened to something approaching naturalistic over time as plants have seeded themselves from elsewhere in the garden.

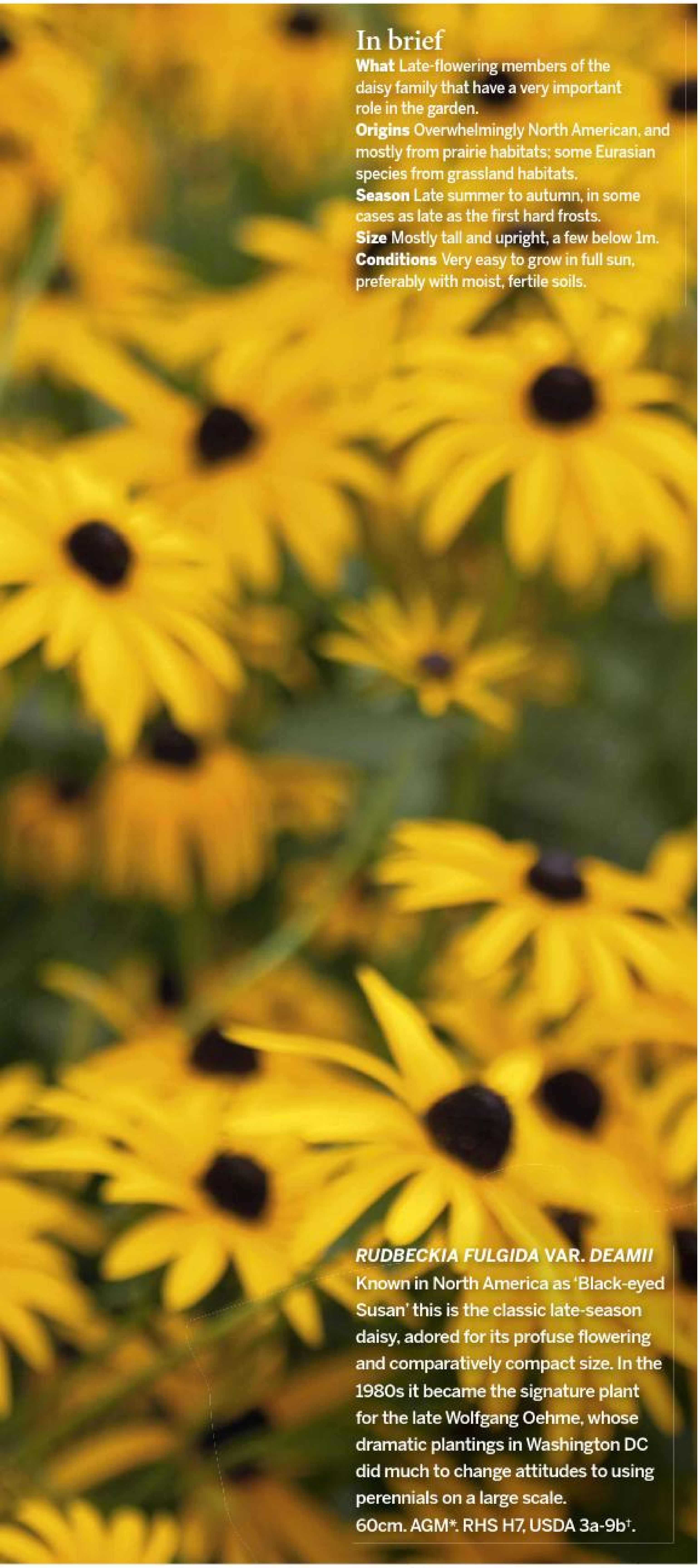
Bottom right Closer to the house, the green geometry is tempered with highlights of colour including *Sedum spectabile*, and on the patio a pale pink *Hydrangea aspera* subsp. *sargentiana*.



Autumn daisies

The *Asteraceae* family is renowned for its daisy-like stars. Add to these some less recognised members and you have a great selection of plants for autumn colour

WORDS **NOËL KINGSBURY** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**



In brief

What Late-flowering members of the daisy family that have a very important role in the garden.
Origins Overwhelmingly North American, and mostly from prairie habitats; some Eurasian species from grassland habitats.
Season Late summer to autumn, in some cases as late as the first hard frosts.
Size Mostly tall and upright, a few below 1m.
Conditions Very easy to grow in full sun, preferably with moist, fertile soils.

RUDBECKIA FULGIDA* VAR. *DEAMII
Known in North America as 'Black-eyed Susan' this is the classic late-season daisy, adored for its profuse flowering and comparatively compact size. In the 1980s it became the signature plant for the late Wolfgang Oehme, whose dramatic plantings in Washington DC did much to change attitudes to using perennials on a large scale.
60cm. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b†.

Noël Kingsbury is a designer and writer, whose garden on the Welsh borders reflects his passion for wild-style planting.

Evolution has scattered plant families unevenly around the world. The early summer froth of cow parsley, which together with its innumerable relatives lines so many of Britain's country roads, is not repeated anywhere else, while on a tiny strip of South African Cape you'll find 700 heathers. In North America, meanwhile, east of the Great Plains, evolution went daisy crazy. Early plant hunters recognised the garden value of the vast number of these late-flowering and vigorous plants, and soon brought them back across the Atlantic to take up residence in our gardens.

During the great age of the herbaceous border at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, breeders in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands got to work on these colourful perennials that have been a mainstay of our gardens ever since. In recent years North American gardeners have turned with enthusiasm to their own flora, so now we are seeing another wave of late daisy species and cultivars crossing the pond.

The daisy family, *Compositae* or *Asteraceae*, is one of the largest families of flowering plants. Although some species vary greatly from the traditional image of a daisy, they all share one main characteristic: each flowerhead is composed of not one but hundreds of individual florets. In the familiar daisy pattern, the outer florets have a single huge petal, which contributes to the rays of the flowerhead. Some lack these ray florets, so present a smaller fuzzy flower head, as in the goldenrods – *Solidago*. Of the family's many North American genera, some such as *Aster* and *Solidago* are large enough to merit looking at alone, but there are many others, and it is some of those we look at here. Some have a long history in cultivation, but we are only just learning about others.

Helianthus (sunflowers) is a good place to start, and also a good place to acknowledge some of the drawbacks of the late-summer daisies: a few run aggressively, and there are an awful lot of species with identical hard golden-yellow flowers. There are two exceptions though: 'Lemon Queen' which ▷

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*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

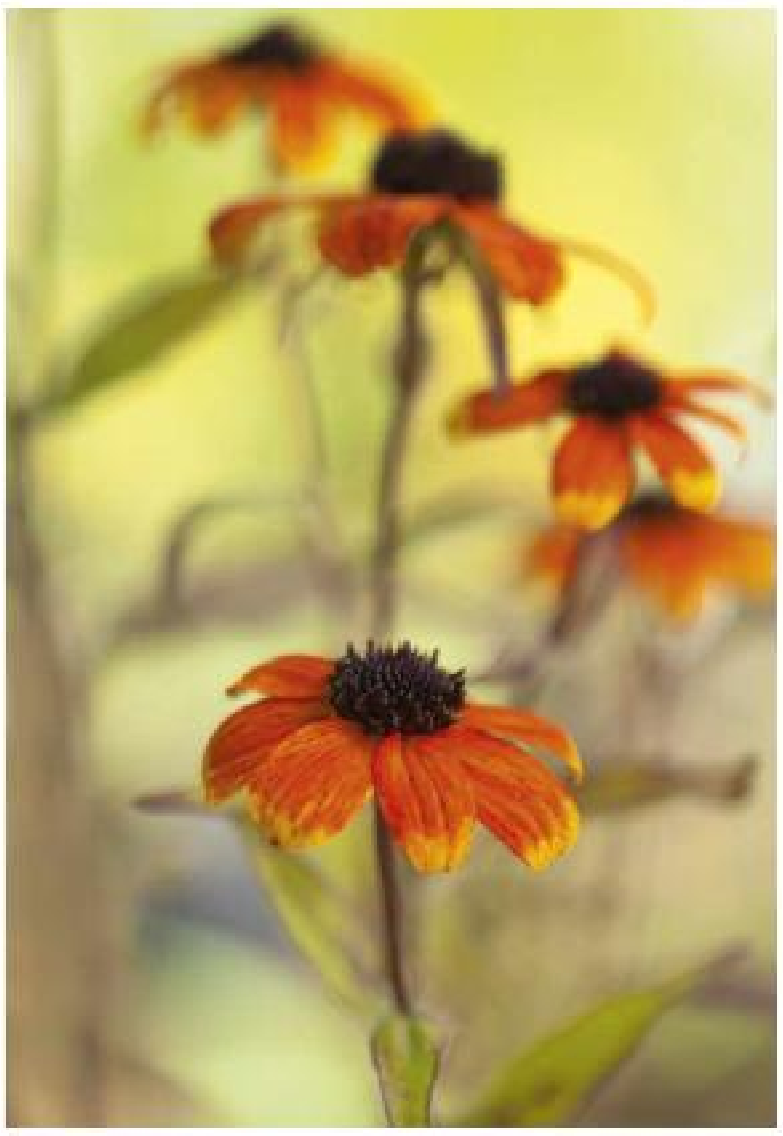
▷ just has to be one of the best new perennials of the past quarter century, and ‘Sheila’s Sunshine’, the former a lovely pale yellow, the latter the nearest thing to that greeny-yellow of the primrose I have ever seen. Both spread, but with decorum.

Add a dark eye and you get *Rudbeckia*, the black-eyed Susans. *R. fulgida* ‘Goldsturm’ is one of the most planted of all late perennials, but there are many others, including all the cultivars descended from *R. hirta*, generally sold as annuals, but often persisting for a year or two longer. Take the yellow daisy and add a long stem and tough, almost sandpaper texture leaves, and you get *Silphium*, a genus of very long-lived prairie plants with massive deep-questing root systems. Looking for the huge divided leaves of *S. laciniatum* with the sun behind them is one of the joys of driving alongside country roads in the midwest.

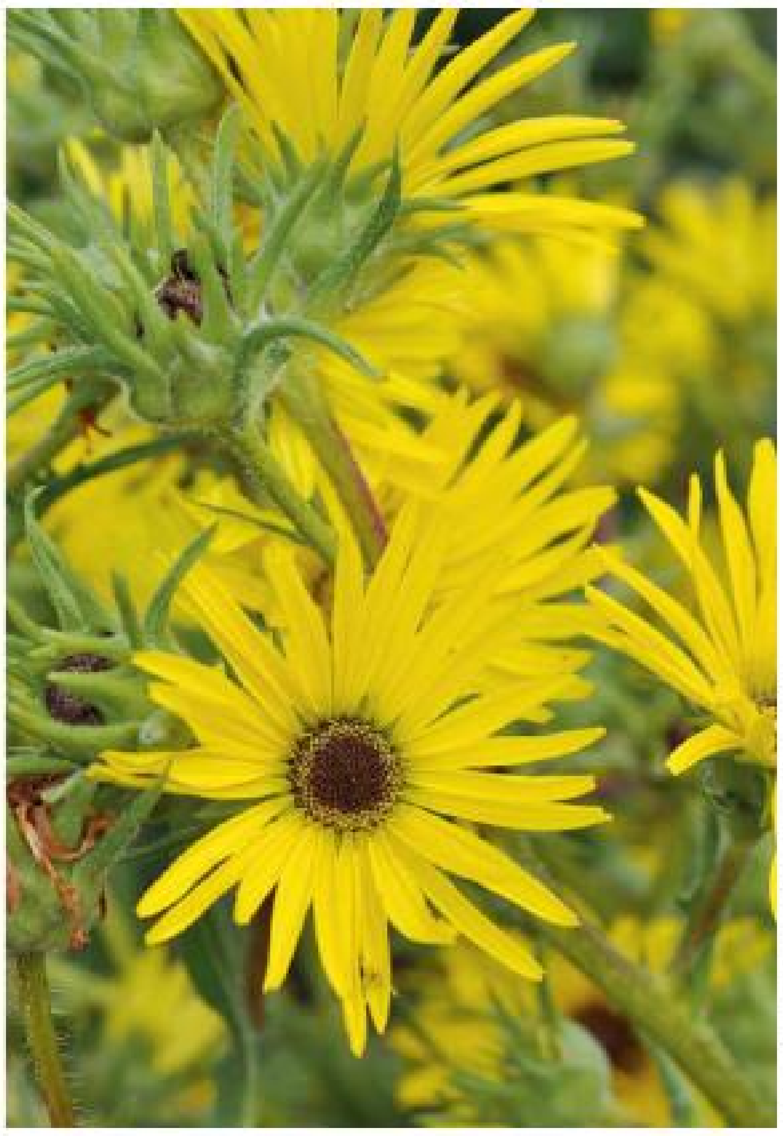
Of the daisies that don’t look like daisies, *Eupatorium maculatum* (Atropurpureum Group) has a long history as a back-of-the-border plant with a magical ability to draw butterflies. This name is being discarded in favour of a complex latin soup of names, partly reflecting the much bigger gene pool we now have. An easier more colloquial name to remember is ‘Joe-Pye weed’, a name that probably derives from Joe Pye, a Native American healer in Massachusetts, who used the plant to treat fevers. Many gardeners consider it too tall for gardens, but recent selective breeding has concentrated on producing shorter, bushier forms, that often have richer coloured flowers and dark stems.

Many of the plant memories from my first visit to the USA, back in 1992, are of daisies, in particular the combination of yellow with violety purple that could be spotted along country backroads. One genus in particular with the latter colour stood out, for its sheer unfamiliarity as much as for its striking good looks: *Vernonia*, the ironweeds. Then unknown here in the UK, these very late flowering plants with dark leaves and vibrant flowerheads atop very tall stems, are now creeping into more and more gardens. We can be sure that we will see more of them, and many more formerly obscure, late daisies in our gardens in the future. □

• Noël’s pick of autumn daisies continues over the next six pages.

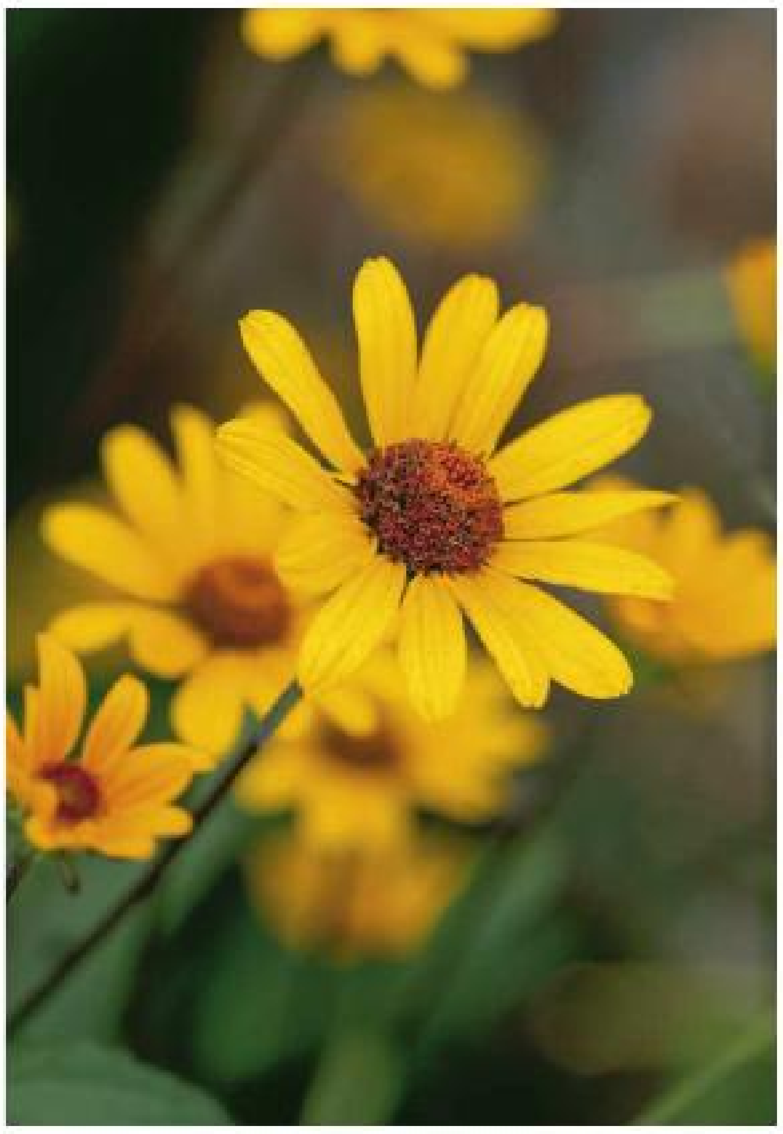


***RUDBECKIA TRILOBA* ‘PRAIRIE GLOW’**
A form of this free-flowering species with orangey flowers from early autumn onwards. Short-lived but easy from seed.
1.8m. USDA 3a-10b.

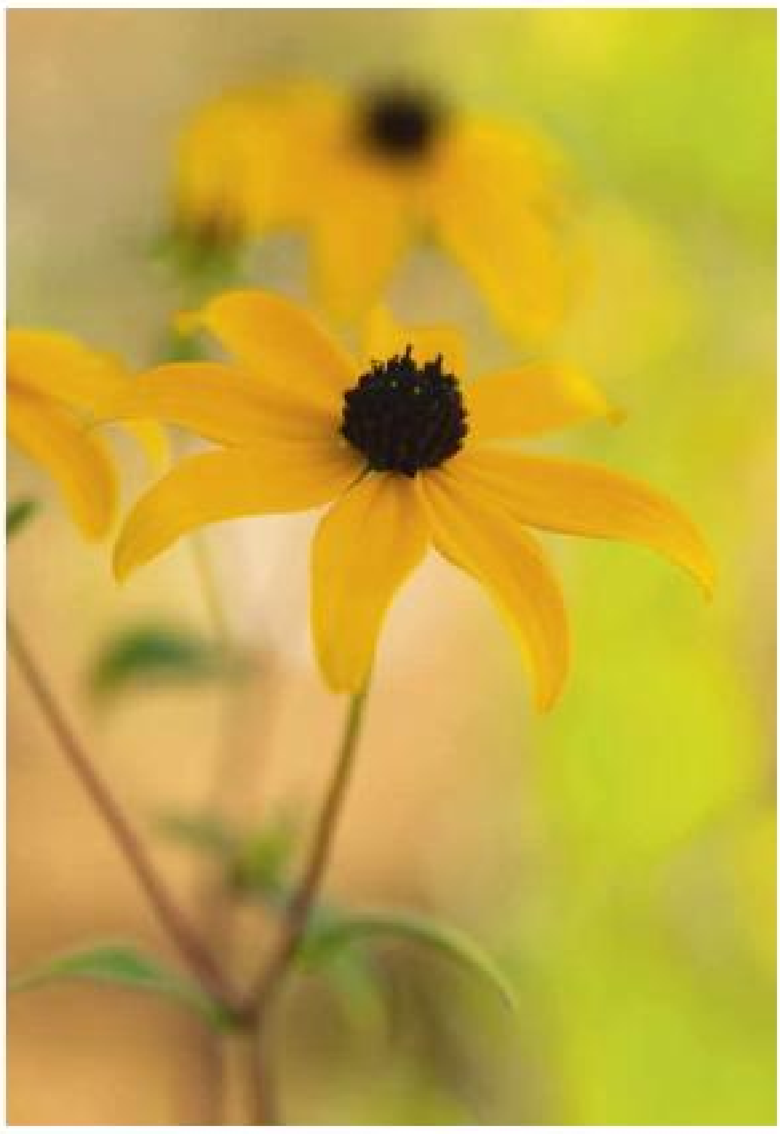


STEFFEN-HAUSER / BOTANIKFOTO / ALAMY

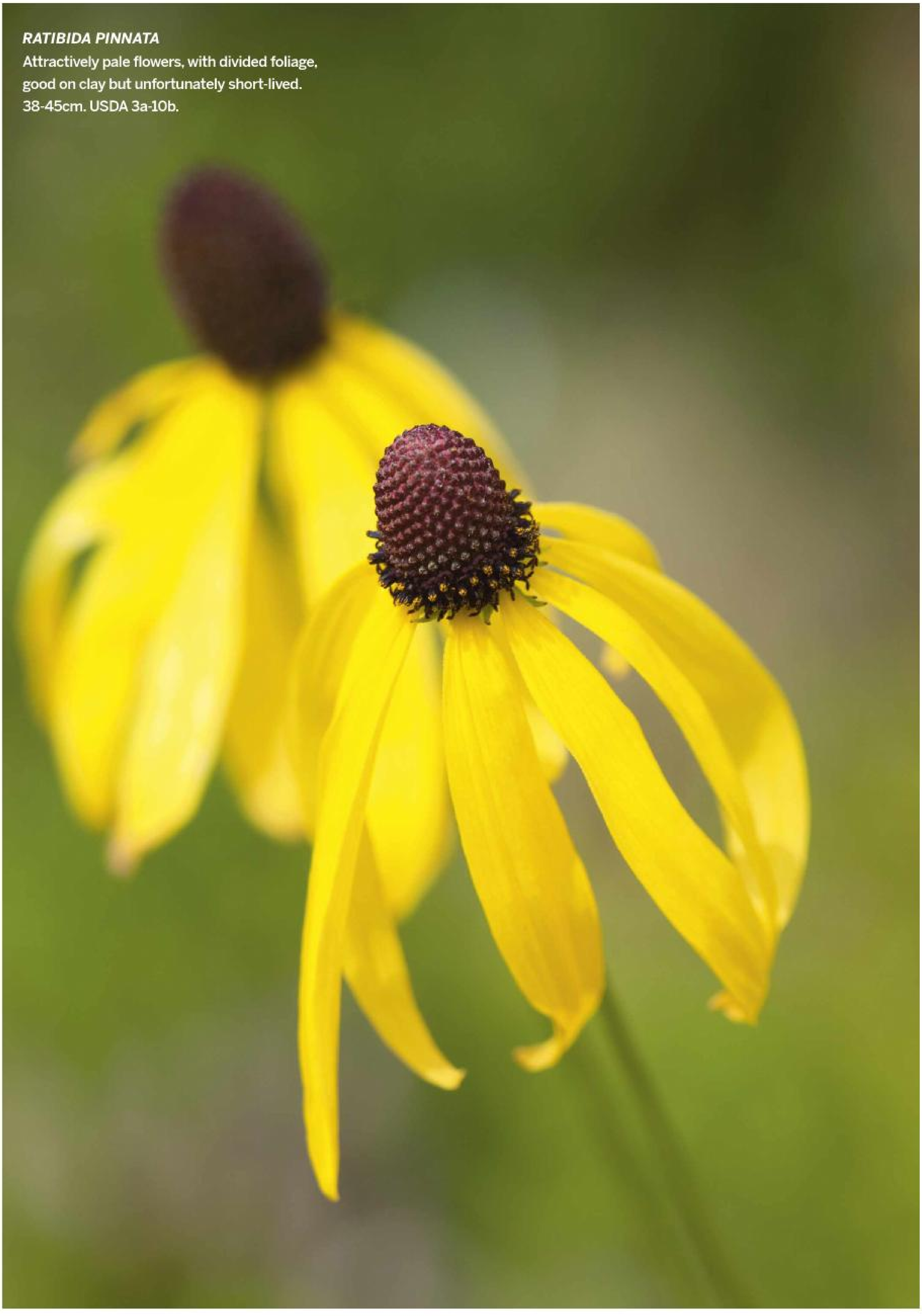
SILPHIUM LACINIATUM
Immensely tall flower spikes, with the main feature being the huge, deeply divided leathery leaves – quite unique among perennials. 45-60cm. USDA Zone 3a-9b.



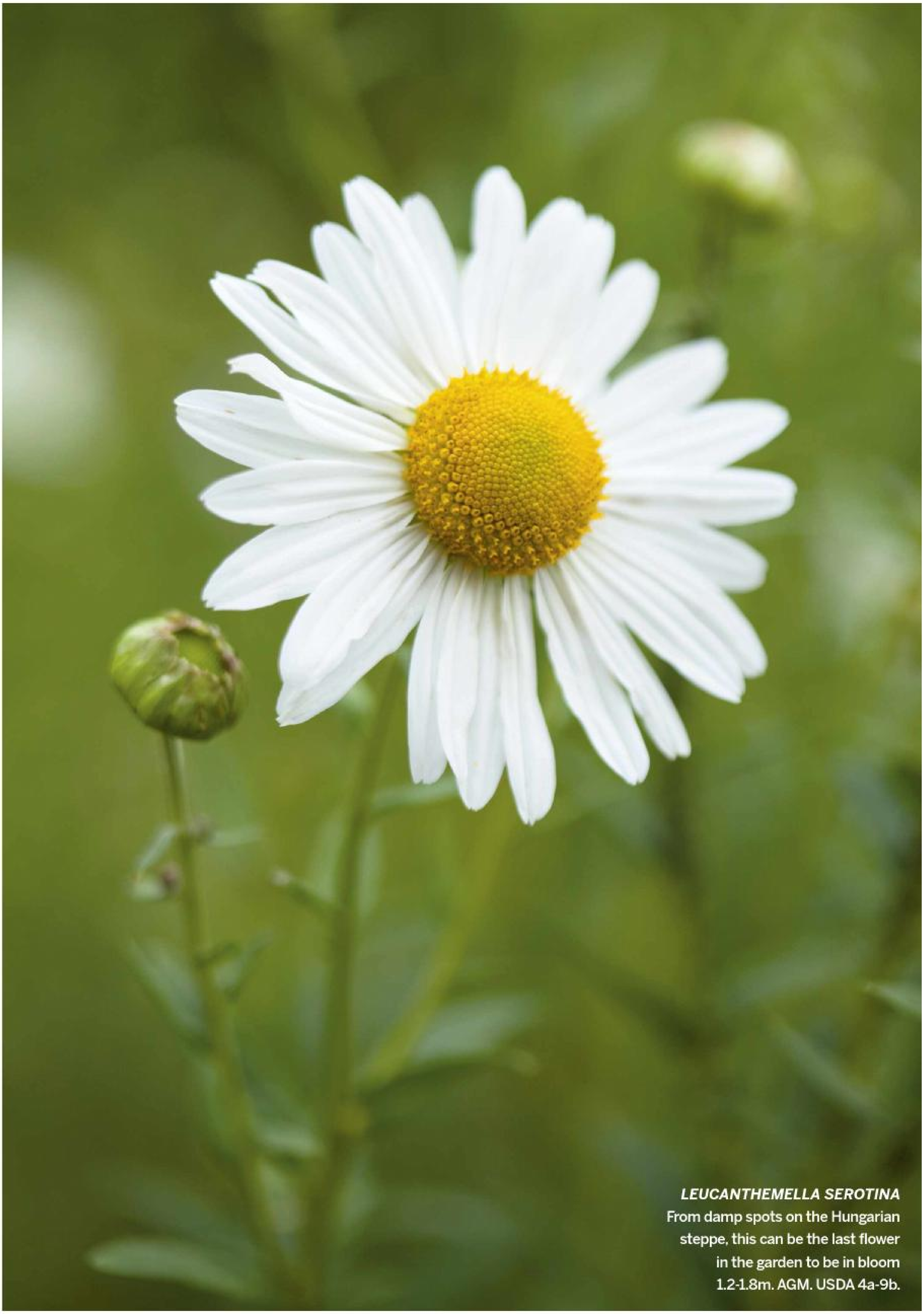
***HELIOPSIS HELIANTHOIDES* VAR. *SCABRA* ‘SUMMER NIGHTS’**
A bold yellow daisy that can flower for two months plus, especially if dead-headed. The flowers last well when cut too.
1.2m. USDA 4a-9b.



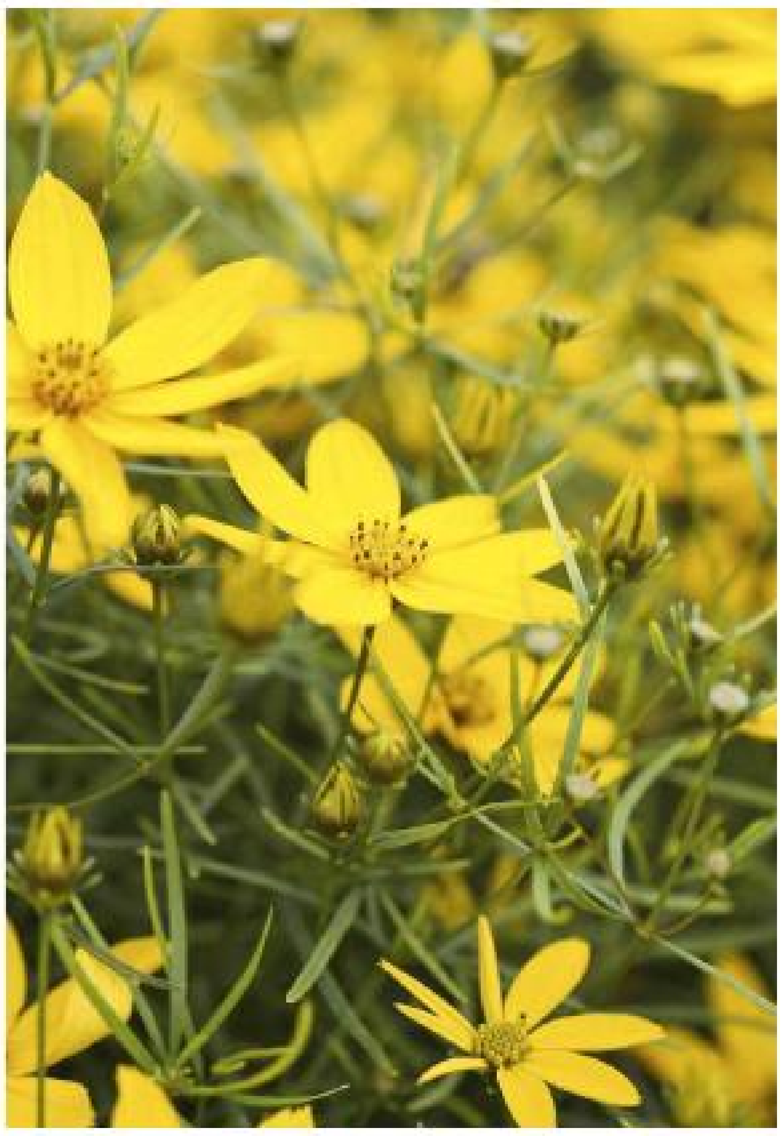
RUDBECKIA TRILOBA
A plant that perhaps flowers itself to death, with vast numbers of dark-centred blooms produced from late summer. Many forms have blunter ends and a more compact flower.
60-90cm. AGM. USDA 3a-10b.



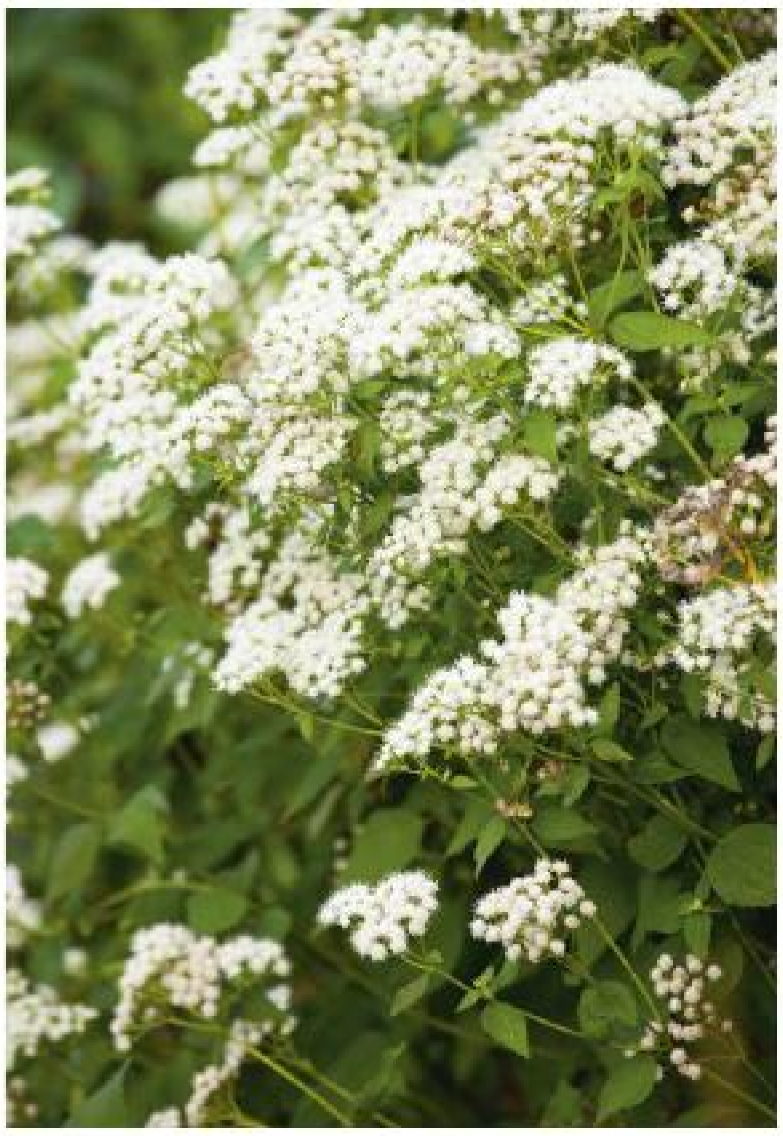
RATIBIDA PINNATA
Attractively pale flowers, with divided foliage, good on clay but unfortunately short-lived. 38-45cm. USDA 3a-10b.



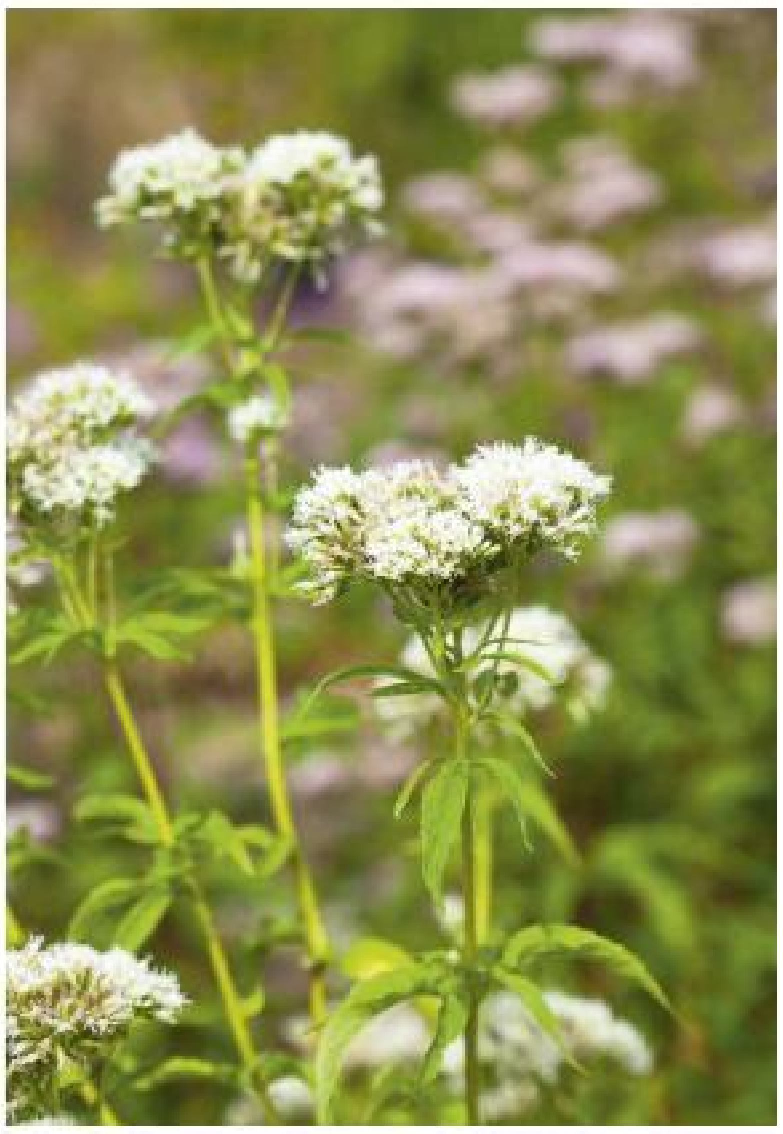
LEUCANTHEMELLA SEROTINA
From damp spots on the Hungarian steppe, this can be the last flower in the garden to be in bloom 1.2-1.8m. AGM. USDA 4a-9b.



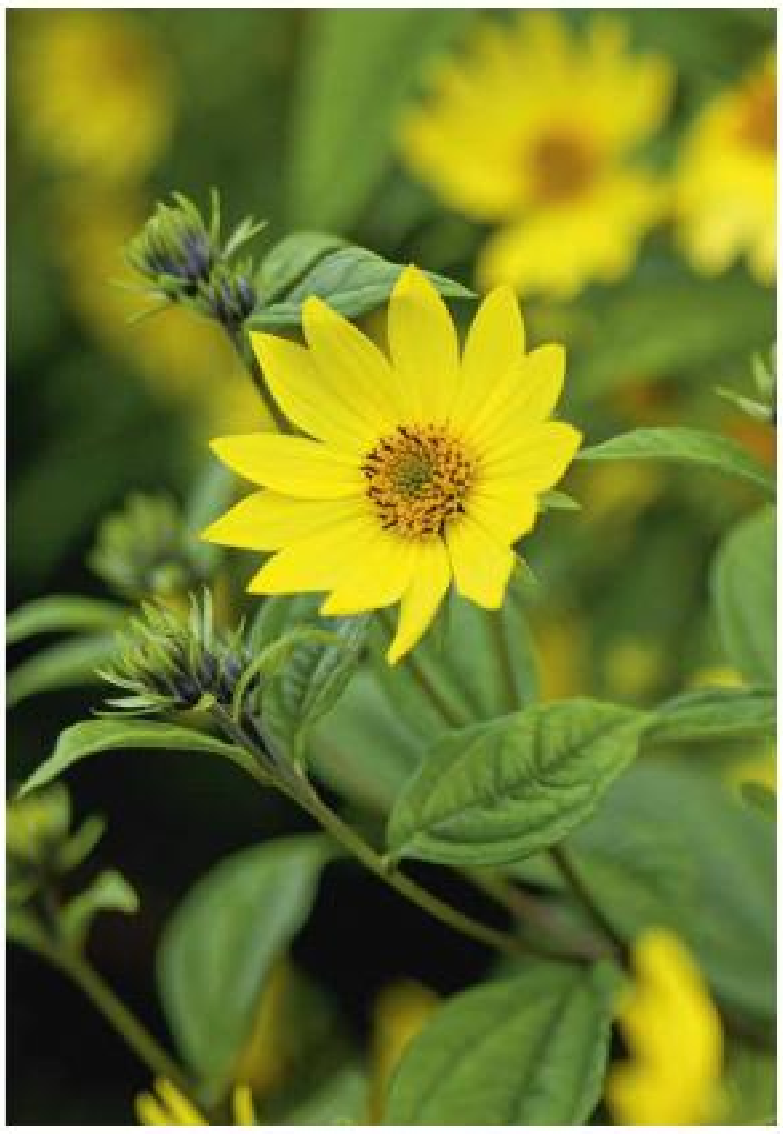
COREOPSIS VERTICILLATA 'ZAGREB'
Coreopsis are very useful garden plants for their compact habit and drought tolerance, flowering from mid to late summer. Their finely divided foliage is distinctive too. 45-60cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.



AGERATINA ALTISSIMA 'BRAUNLAUB'
A reliably long-lived plant, immensely useful for bringing light to shady places in mid to late autumn. Dark leaves in early summer an added attraction. 1m. USDA 4a-9b.



EUPATORIUM CANNABINUM F. ALBIFLORUM
The only British native in this group worth growing, flowering mid to late summer, and like all *Eupatorium*, a first-rate butterfly plant. 1.2m. USDA 5a-9b.



HELIANTHUS 'LEMON QUEEN'
Pale yellow flowers from late summer to mid autumn set this one apart. Forms a solid slowly expanding clump. Tidily upright and rarely needs support. 1.2-1.8m. AGM. USDA 3a-8b.

Cultivation

- Late daisies like sun, as well as reasonably fertile and moist soils. Most can cope with lower fertility, some drought and some seasonal waterlogging, but not a lack of sun – at least not in northern Europe. There is a long history of growing these plants far north of their natural home, which shows how adaptable they are, but also how they can benefit from the long summer days of northerly latitudes. Further south in Europe, some plants, especially shorter ones, will tolerate light shade. The very latest flowering species, all the *Vernonia* for example, may not be so successful in cool summer climates, especially if there is any risk of early frost, as their flowers emerge too late in the season.
- Broadly speaking, there are two growth categories: rapid growing species with moderately large root systems, all the classic yellow daisies, minus *Silphium*; and a slower-growing group with extensive, often radial, root systems, most *Eupatorium*, *Silphium* and *Vernonia*. The superb engineering of the roots of the latter group, means mature plants of these tallest of hardy perennials do not need staking; I have a *Eupatorium fistulosum* from North Carolina that grows regularly to 3.5m. In the 'rapid' group, plants over 1.5m may need staking in windier gardens.
- Plants will survive and flourish for many years with minimal care, the only tasks being slug control (see next page) and cutting back in late autumn or winter. Most of the rapid-growing group do not look that good as winter structure plants, especially in places with wet and windy autumn climates; the slow-growing group can make strong winter silhouette plants, and be cut down later.
- All spread to form clumps, but at very different rates. A few *Helianthus* seem set on world domination but they are rarely sold. Faster-spreading species may out-compete less vigorous border plants in their vicinity and need occasional thinning.
- The height of some species may be a problem in smaller gardens, but Tracy DiSabato-Aust in Ohio has

shown that by lightly pruning back plants in early summer you can reduce height, improve shape and achieve a better display of flowers.

Pests and diseases

- Possibly because most of the group are native to areas of high summer humidity, they have good natural defences and seem remarkably disease free. Slugs and snails, on the other hand, can do appalling damage, especially in cold wet springs. The 'slow' group are especially vulnerable. Surrounding the crowns of plants with sharp grit is probably the best long-term method of protection.

Propagation

- The 'rapid' group are easily divided in the winter dormant period; the 'slow' group can be divided, but radial roots will need severing and you'll need to cut into the crown with a pruning saw. 'Heel' cuttings, where shoots are pulled away from the crown in spring, are also easy, and you can take stem cuttings of some species in late spring to early summer.

Combinations

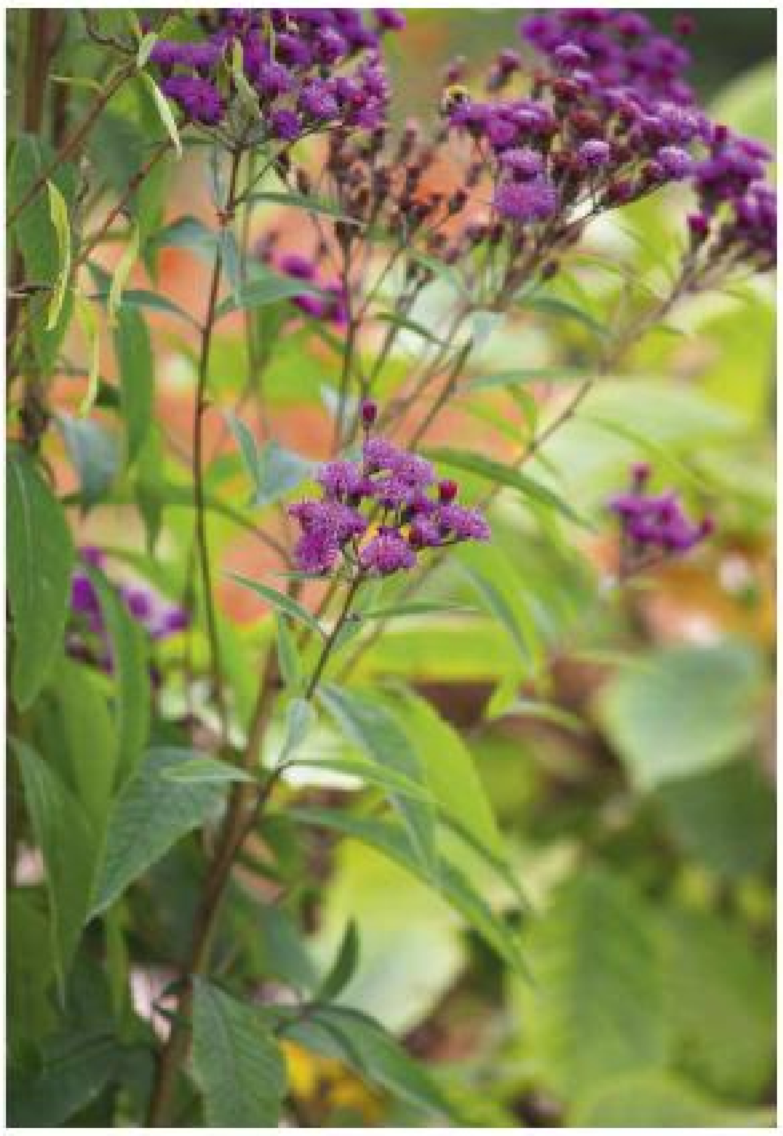
- Grasses are the natural companions to most of these plants, but since late daisies are by definition late, complementary earlier flowering perennials are needed – *Astrantia, Geranium* and *Phlox* combine well. Small spring bulbs, such as snowdrops and smaller narcissi, can be scattered liberally among perennial clumps too.

Where to see and buy

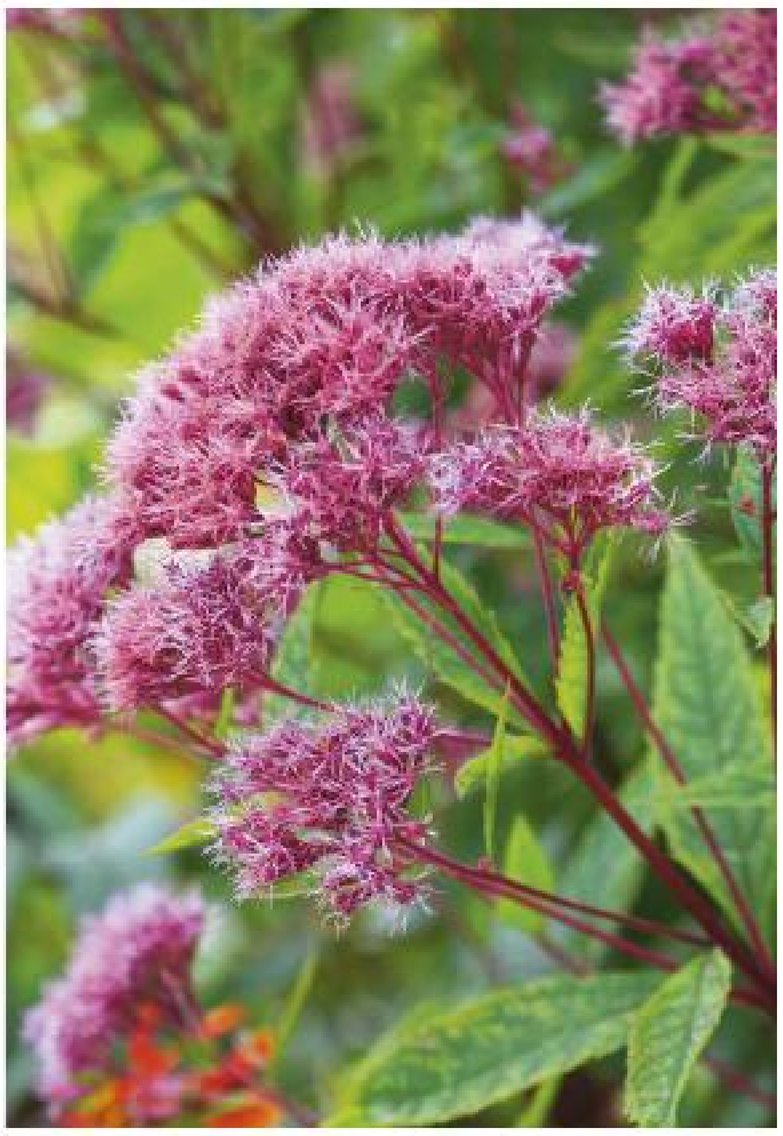
- **Dove Cottage**
  Shibden Hall Road, Halifax,
  West Yorkshire HX3 9XA.
  Tel 01422 203553,
  dovecottagenursery.co.uk

- **Hopley's Plants**
  High Street, Much Hadham,
  Hertfordshire SG10 6BU.
  Tel 01279 842509, hopleys.co.uk

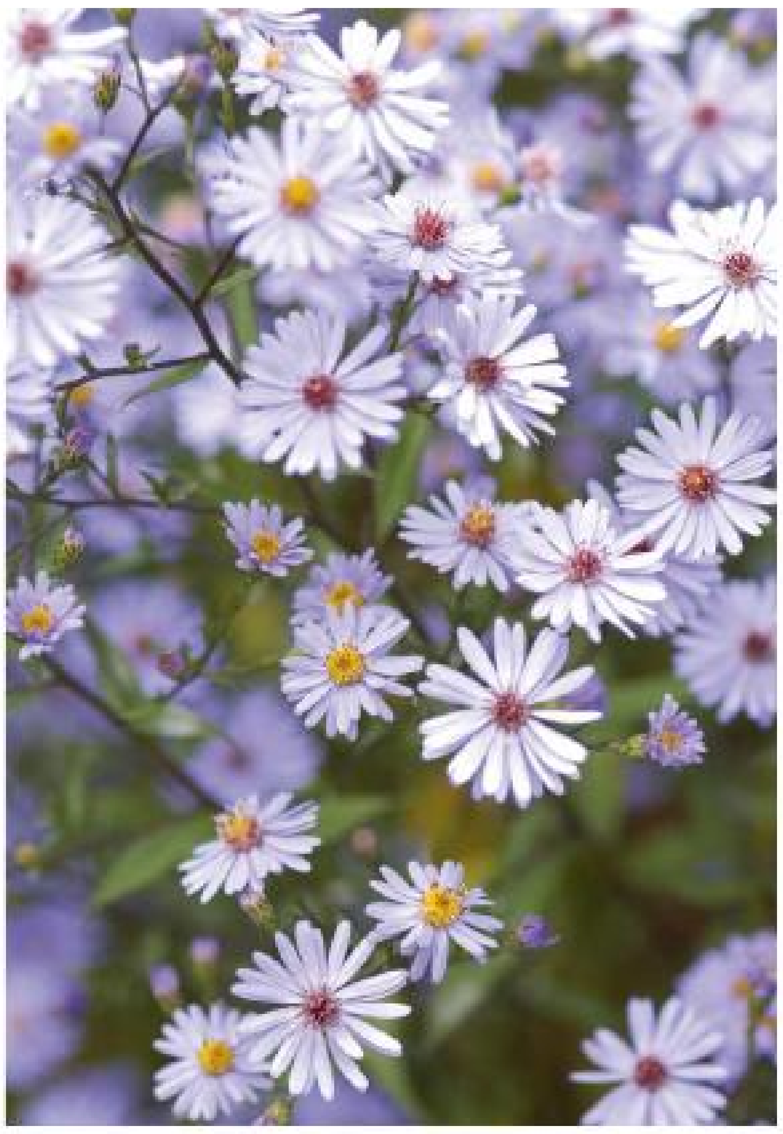
- **Phoenix Perennial Plants**
  Paice Lane, Medstead, Alton,
  Hampshire GU34 5PR.
  Tel 01420 560695 (call before visit).



VERNONIA ARKANSANA
A good late nectar source for insects, 'ironweeds' are the prairie's swan song before winter. Stiffly upright with good foliage – an excellent structure plant. 1.8m. USDA 5a-8b.

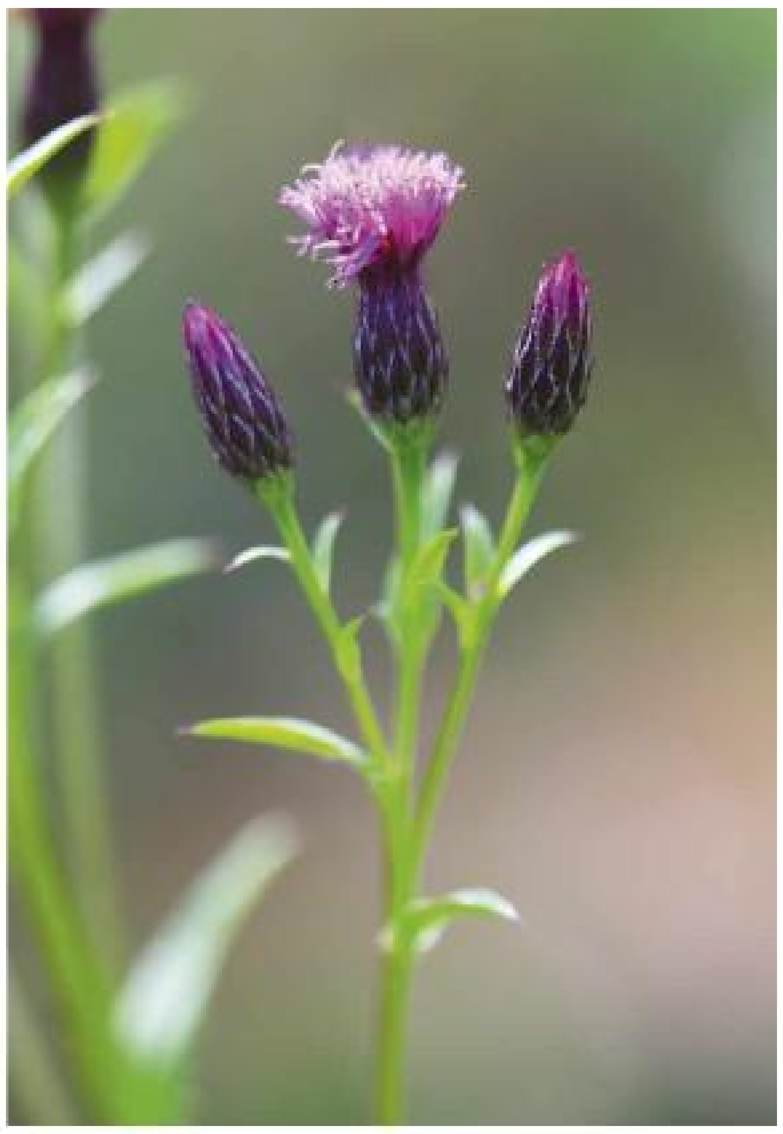


***EUPATORIUM MACULATUM* (ATROPURPUREUM GROUP) 'PURPLE BUSH'**
A shorter cultivar of this long-lived species, which forms a tight clump with time. 1.4m. AGM. USDA 3-9.

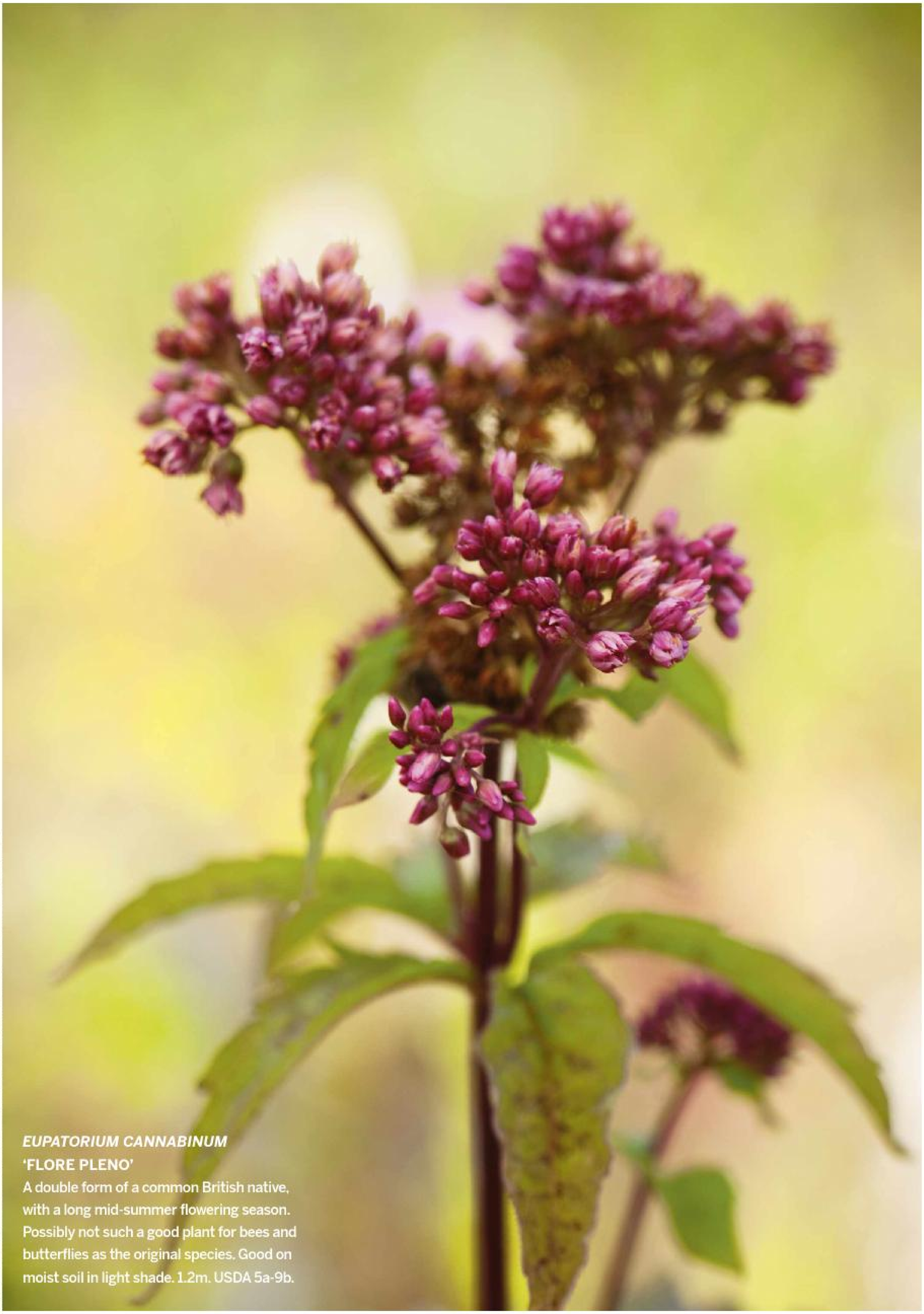


TORIE CHUGG

***ASTER* 'LITTLE CARLOW'**
Bred in the 1930s, this is still the best of the true aster daisies, flowering through September to early October, spreading slowly, only rarely needing support. Up to 1.5m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.



SERRATULA TINCTORIA
Serratula includes several late-flowering species, all of which are sadly underrated as garden plants. This *S. tinctoria* is an uncommon British native. 1.2m. USDA 7b-10a.



***EUPATORIUM CANNABINUM* 'FLORE PLENO'**
A double form of a common British native, with a long mid-summer flowering season. Possibly not such a good plant for bees and butterflies as the original species. Good on moist soil in light shade. 1.2m. USDA 5a-9b.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PHOENIX PERENNIAL PLANTS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THESE IMAGES WERE PHOTOGRAPHED

Alan Street

A sharp eye for detail and great taste in everything from suits to snowdrops make Alan Street one of the country's most sought-after nurserymen

WORDS ANNA PAVORD PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Meeting Alan Street for the first time, you might think he was French, because he has a particular kind of style you don't often see in an Englishman. He's a sharp dresser. His boots are terrific. So is his haircut. The suits, in which he appears alongside the Avon Bulbs displays at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows in London, are immaculate dark pinstripes. If he wears a muffler, he does so in just the right insouciant way.

But you need that good eye, that attention to detail if you are to win the number of Gold Medals that Avon Bulbs has gathered in over the years. Nobody who saw it will ever forget the stupendous display of snowdrops Alan brought to the RHS February show three years ago, when more than 5,000 flowers were displayed among moss and leaves with such grace, such elegance, such sympathy, you thought they must have been growing there for ever.

He's 56 years old and Avon Bulbs is effectively the only job he's ever had. "Every day for the past 34 years I've got up and come to the nursery and lifted and divided and propagated. And nurtured." Nurturing is a word Alan uses a lot. And it's this acute, visceral attachment to his plants that makes him such a great nurseryman. They still enchant him, all the flowers he brings into being with his twin-scaling, his seed sowing, his careful garnering of offsets.

There was a moment when he thought he might have been something else – a specialist perhaps in French carved capitals of the 12th century. Back in the seventies, he had a place to study Fine Art at Norwich University of the Arts, but he never took it up. Then he decided he would do his bit for society and become a psychiatric nurse. "Are you really ready for that?" asked a friend. He realised he wasn't.

But he did love the garden at his parents' home in Oxfordshire. Nothing special, he says – sweet williams, marigolds, plenty of veg – but whenever they came back from a family holiday, he would rush round checking what had happened in his absence. "There was a love of plants there that just couldn't be taken away. And it's *never* left me."

So he signed on for a three-year course in nursery practice at Merrist Wood College in Surrey. There, he discovered the first of the plants that he's been responsible for introducing to the gardening world – x *Halimiocistus wintonensis* 'Merrist Wood Cream', a cross between *Halimium* and *Cistus* with creamy rose flowers blotched at the base with dark maroon. It's still in cultivation and the proud possessor of an Award of Garden Merit.

But the flower he's most associated with is the snowdrop and earlier this year, the Avon Bulbs catalogue offered an extraordinary selection of 89 different kinds, cosseted, nurtured and slowly built up into saleable quantities by Alan. It included 'Blewbury Tart' the strange, angular, very green double snowdrop he discovered in the churchyard of St Michael's church at Blewbury in Oxfordshire. "Dug up with the permission of the vicar," he stresses.

That was in 1974, before he'd started at Merrist Wood and certainly before the current, widespread galanthomania had begun. But Walter Stagg, who 'bought' Alan as part and parcel of the nursery that became Avon Bulbs, was already collecting snowdrops in the early eighties. Many came from the gardens of the late Priscilla Bacon at Raveningham in Norfolk.

Alan's other great love is what he calls his "old ladies" – the ancient, papery-petalled narcissi he's gradually been collecting from neglected orchards, churchyards and overgrown gardens. "Such charm, such grace," he says as we gaze at a bunch he's picked of 'Bath's Flame', with a delicate frilled cup of orange set against primrose yellow petals, raised more than 100 years ago by the great connoisseur of daffodils, the Rev George Engleheart of Bath.

When we meet, he's just come back from speaking at the Philadelphia Flower Show. It's not easy taking time off, although he says in the odd spare moment he loves poking around in flea markets. But the nursery is where he's rooted, nurturing his treasures (look out for his new dark-flowered *Agapanthus* 'Alan Street' which he selected as a seedling about ten years ago). "You can make a living in the nursery trade," he says reflectively. "You'll never make a lot of money, but you do make some wonderful friends." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Avon Bulbs, Burnt House Farm, Mid Lambrook,
South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5HE.
Tel 01460 242177, avonbulbs.co.uk

NEXT MONTH

Food writer, Michael Pollan.

It's this visceral attachment to his plants that makes him such a great nurseryman

Tulips and hyacinths fill a cutting bed with rich spring colour in Arne's kitchen garden.

Forthcoming attractions

Start planning your spring bulbs now and you can look forward to months of changing bold and bright colour

WORDS ARNE MAYNARD PHOTOGRAPHS BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER

Arne Maynard is a leading garden designer based in London and Monmouthshire

I love spring bulbs and use them in many different ways around the garden, from informal drifts of snowdrops and early species narcissi that can be left to naturalise over time, to more formal plantings of tulips in my herbaceous borders and rose garden. These bulbs stay in the ground from one year to the next, although I'll carry on topping them up each year, so it's important to choose a colour palette that fits in with your permanent planting and stick to it.

I really enjoy using bulbs – tulips in particular – for big, bold displays in pots and these I treat as annuals. What I love about these annual displays is their vigour; tulips and hyacinths in their first year produce big, strong, blowsy flowers that would look out of place in the open ground, but look wonderful packed into containers or special cutting beds. I look on these annual displays as an opportunity for experimental planting, choosing a different colour theme each year. I aim for a long season of successional flowering, and plant both containers and areas of my kitchen garden, so I can use some for cutting without spoiling the effect.

I use big pots, and plant in layers, really packing the bulbs in – about 60 bulbs per pot. I fill the base with about 30cm of compost and put in the first layer, densely packed, of a late tulip, such as 'Black Hero', which, because it's so deep will take time to emerge. The next layer will be a mid-season tulip from within the same colour palette, then another layer, this time using fewer bulbs, because they'll be overlapping with those below and then the final layer will be early flowering tulips, fewer still. I may even add another two layers – one of hyacinths, to flower with the early tulips, and on top of that some really early bulbs, such as *Muscari* (grape hyacinths), which get covered over as the bulbs below emerge. Once the early tulips have flowered I'll cut the stems back to soil level and I do that successively as the bulbs finish. These pots will flower for over a month, from April to May.

If I'm planting tulips on their own in a pot, I may run out of time and do it after Christmas, which is fine for tulips, but if you're mixing the tulips with other bulbs, such as hyacinths, you'll need to plant up by November. Once the pots have finished flowering, the bulbs can be lifted and dried, and then re-planted in the garden. Second- and third-year flowers will be smaller and gentler, but ideal for informal and country borders or under apple trees. ☐

- Turn the page for four fabulous colour combinations to plant now for spring.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS

Cotswold Garden Flowers
Tel 01386 422829
cgf.net

Crocus
Tel 0844 557 2233
crocus.co.uk

Jacques Amand International
Tel 020 8420 7110
jacquesamandintl.com

Peter Nyssen
Tel 0161 747 4000
peternyssen.com

Rose Cottage Plants
Tel 01992 573775
rosecottageplants. co.uk

Sarah Raven
Tel 0845 092 0283
sarahraven.com

Flushed with green

For this cutting bed in my kitchen garden, I chose shades of pinks, whites and deep violets, all streaked with green, to give months of varied colour. Seen here in May, the display began in March with white and pale pink muscari. Hyacinths and early pink tulips joined the party in April, followed by *Tulipa* 'Exotic Emperor', which is still flowering in this rich finale of *T.* 'Groenland' and *T.* 'Burgundy'.

1 *Tulipa* 'Havran'
This rich burgundy, almost black, tulip can sometimes have two flowers on a stem. Mid – late April. 50cm.

2 *Muscari aucheri* 'White Magic'
This is a non-invasive form of muscari that does well in sunny spots or pots. March – April. 10-15cm. USDA 4a-8b[†].

3 *T.* 'Groenland'
Often sold as the cultivar 'Greenland', this beautiful pale pink tulip, edged with green, is a lovely late-flowering treat. Early May. 55cm. USDA 3a-8b.

4 *T.* 'Salmon Impression'
A delicate salmony, apricot bloom. Late April – early May. 55cm. USDA 3a-8b.

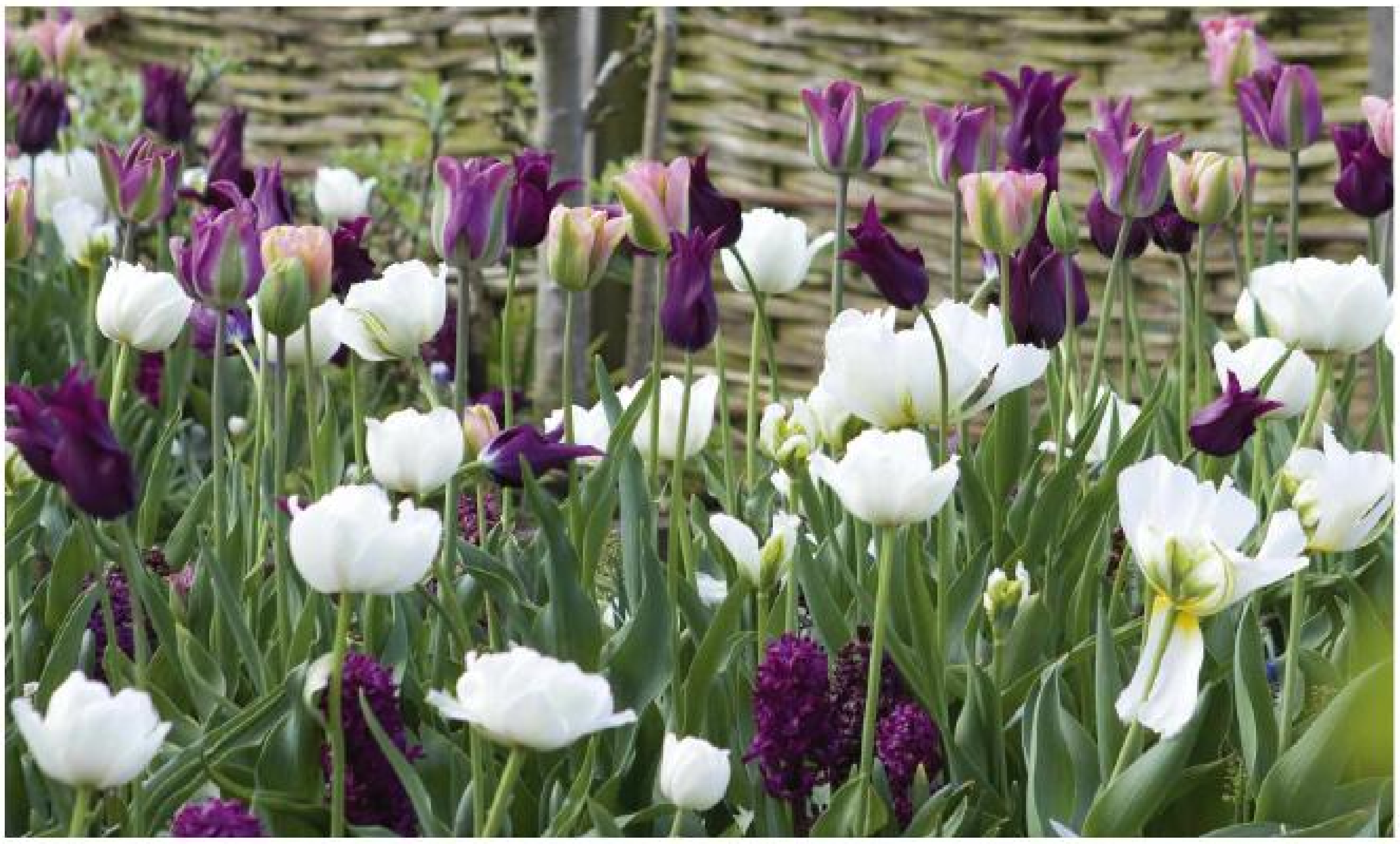
5 *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Woodstock'
Delicately scented, beetroot purple blooms with a dark stem. April. 30cm. USDA 3a-7b.

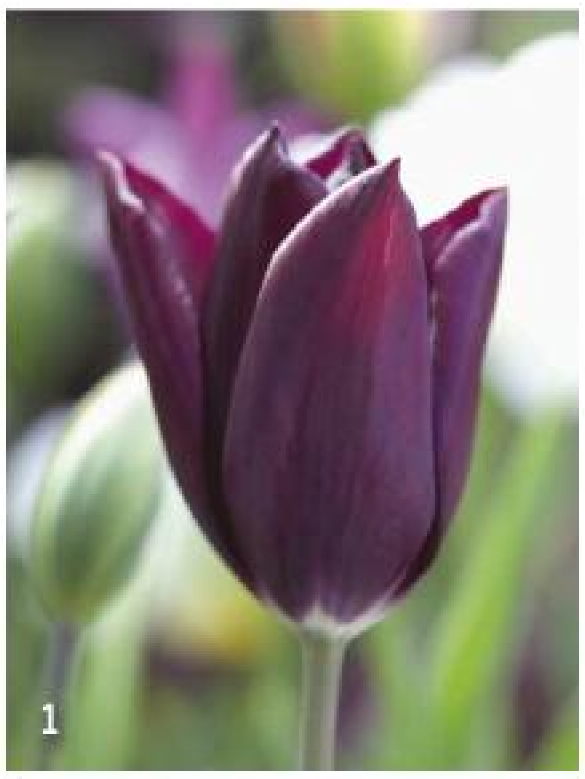
6 *T.* 'Exotic Emperor'
Double, pure white tulip beautifully marked with green. Early – mid April. 35cm. USDA 3a-8b.

7 *T.* 'Nightrider'
A striking deep mauve purple with a mid-green flame. Early May. 55cm.

8 *Muscari* 'Ivor's Pink'
These start with pale yellow green buds that develop a white cap, a warm-pink midriff and darker pink petticoat. Utterly charming. March – April. 12cm.

9 *T.* 'Burgundy'
The lily flowered form of this tulip is really emphasised by its deep violet colouring. Early – mid May. 50cm. USDA 3a-8b.

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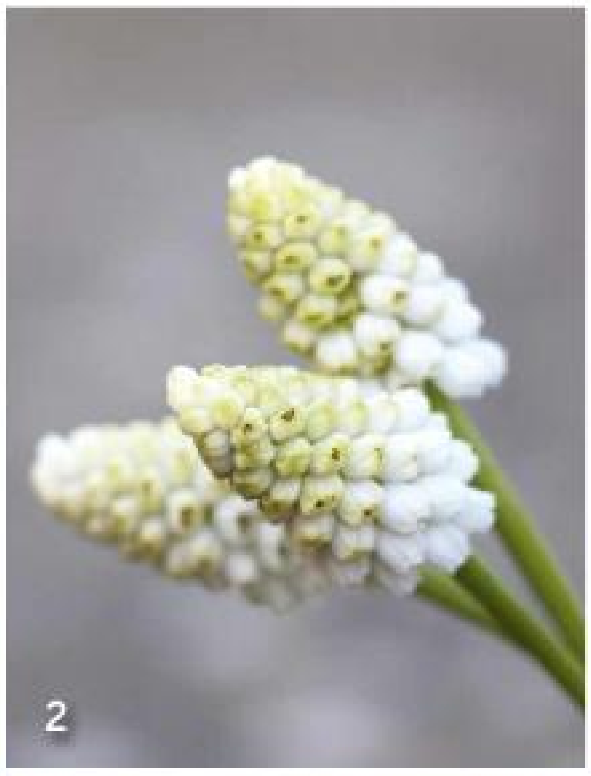
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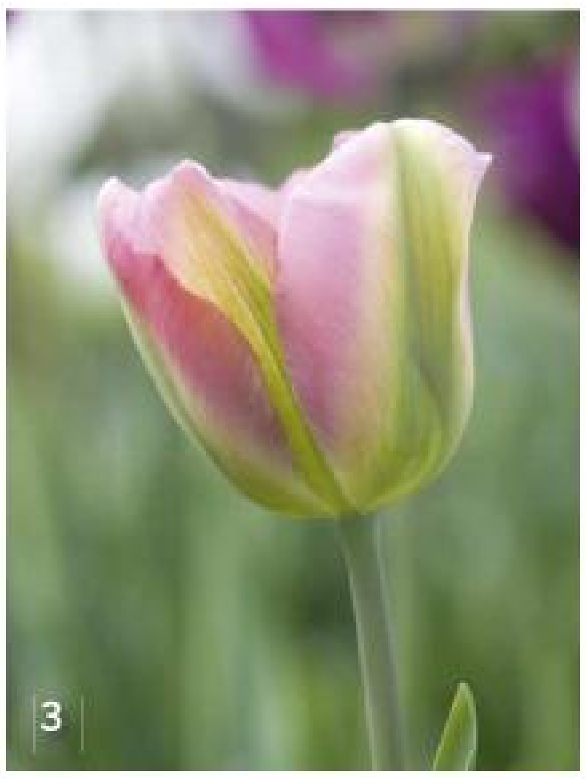
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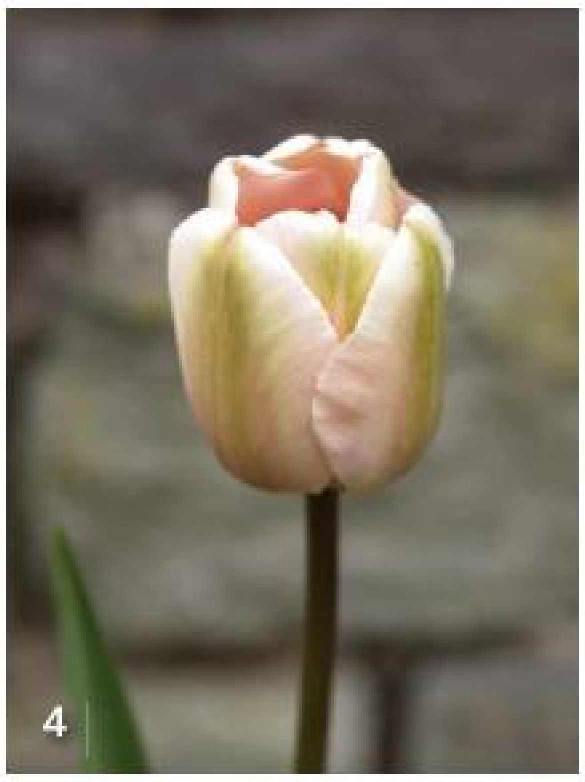
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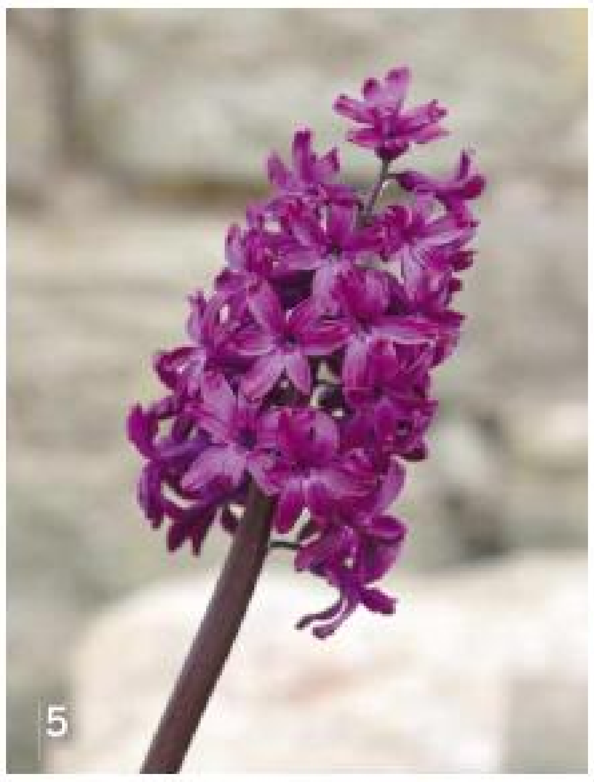
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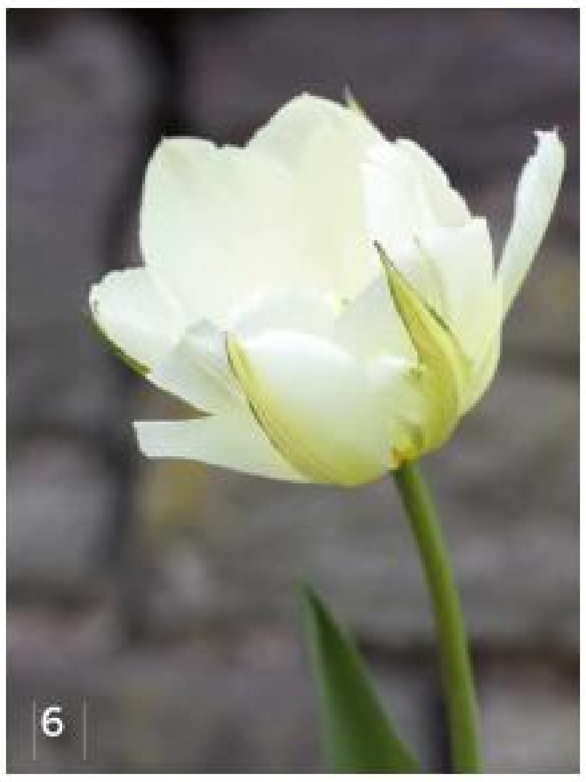
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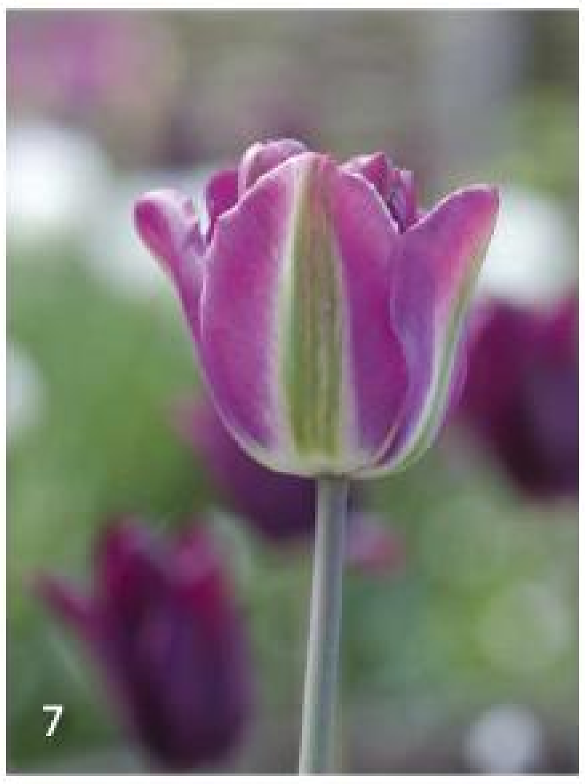
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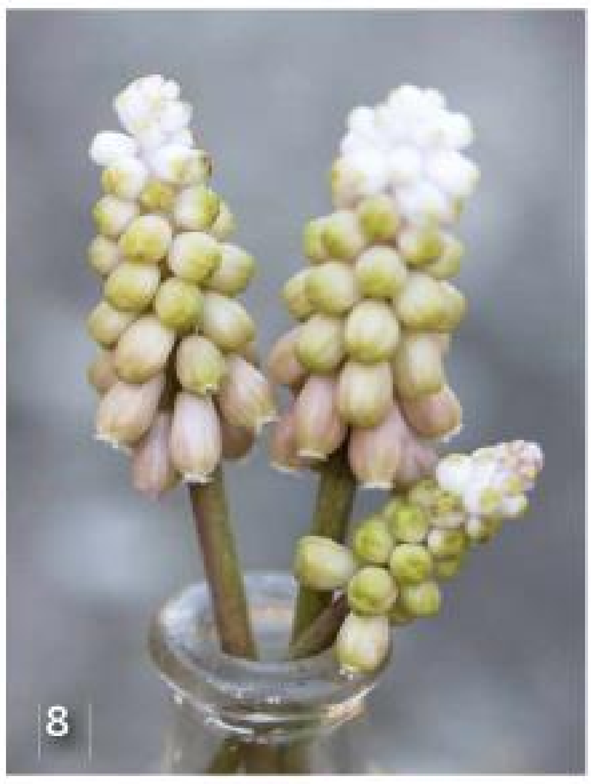
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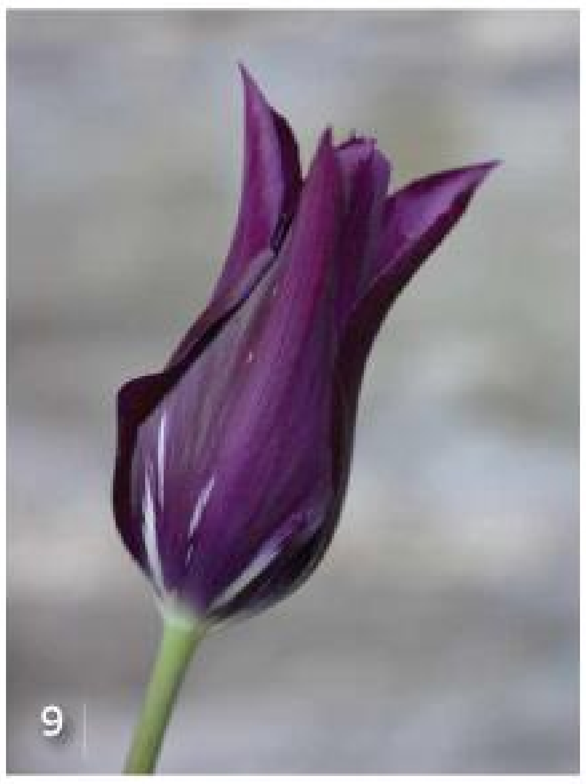
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Peppermint fresh

A palette of fresh pinks and blues sets the tone for this cutting bed, beginning the season early with the huge, scented heads of *Hyacinthus* 'City of Bradford'. These give way in April to a lovely tutti-frutti assortment of pink and purple tulips, with *T.* 'Gabriella' and *T.* 'Muriel' in the foreground.

1 *Muscari neglectum*
These add a wonderful blue-black note to the planting palette.
March – April. 12-15cm. USDA 4a-7b.

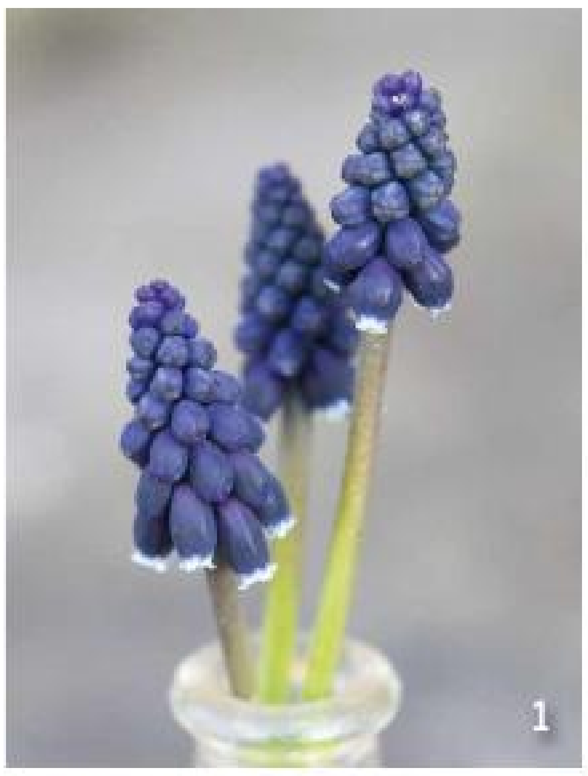
2 *Hyacinthus* 'City of Bradford'
A smokey pale blue with glaucous leaves, gloriously scented and ideal for cutting.
March – April. 25cm. USDA 4a-9b.

3 *T.* 'Muriel'
This stunning satiny purple, parrot tulip, from Sarah Raven's dark tulip collection, adds a lovely feminine touch to a display.
Late April – May. 60cm.

4 *T.* 'Rems Favourite'
True Rembrant tulips are breathtaking, but rare and can be petulant. This wonderful modern triumph tulip has a classic Rembrant feel but is much more widely available and strong growing.
Mid – late April. 50cm. USDA 4a-9a.

5 *T.* 'Purple Dream'
A tall-growing, clear purple with an elegant, lily-flowered shape.
Early – mid May. 55cm. USDA 3a-8b.

6 *T.* 'Gabriella'
Soft pink, flushed deeper pink – a combination of tones that makes this a very good mixer.
Mid – late April. 45cm.



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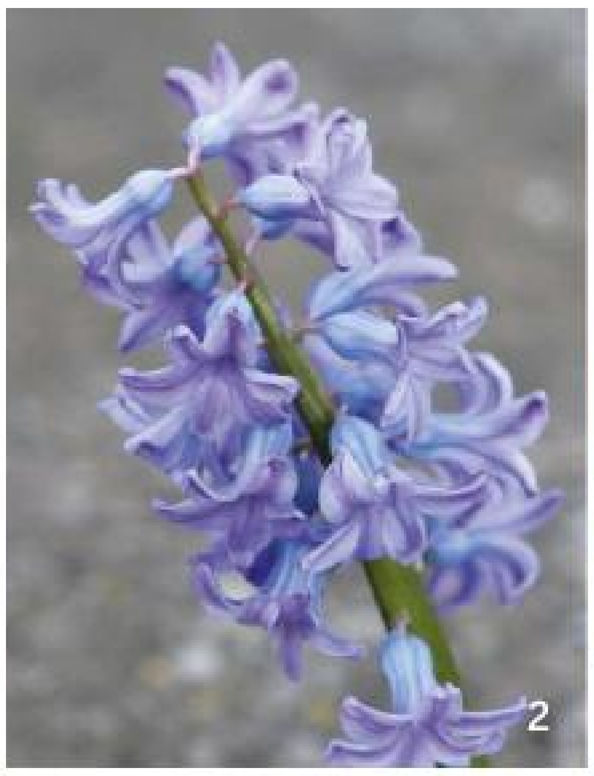

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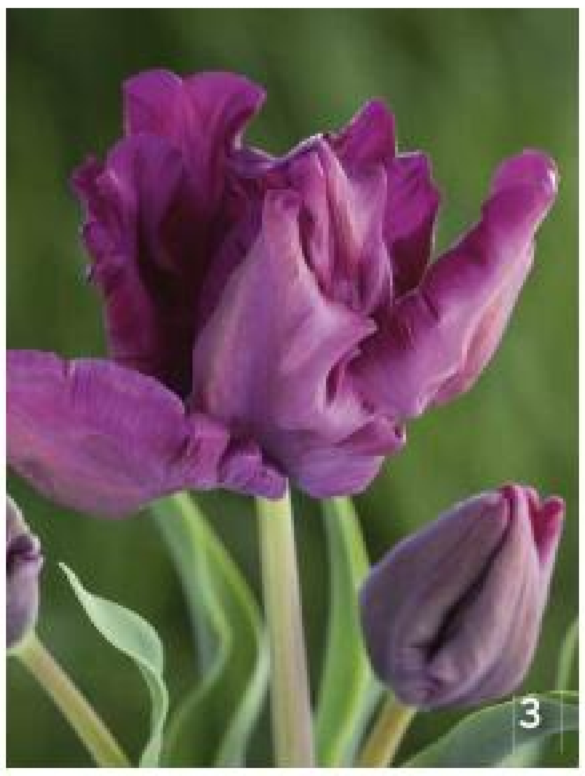

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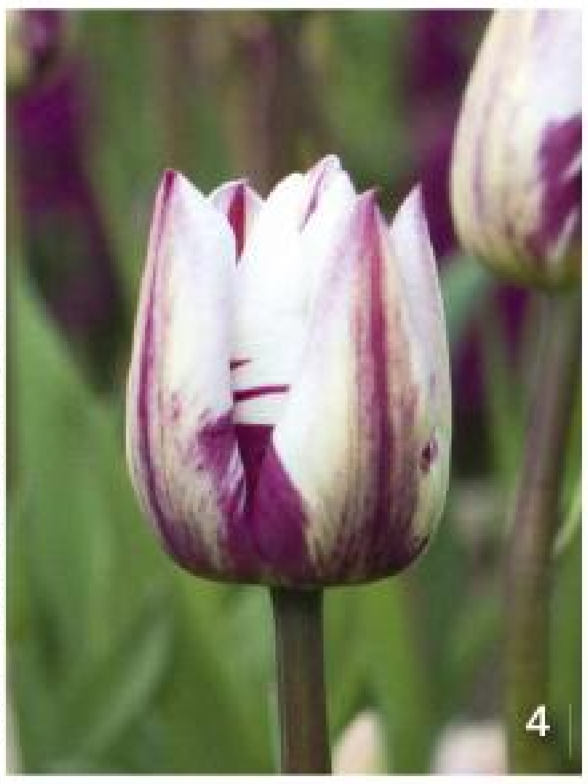

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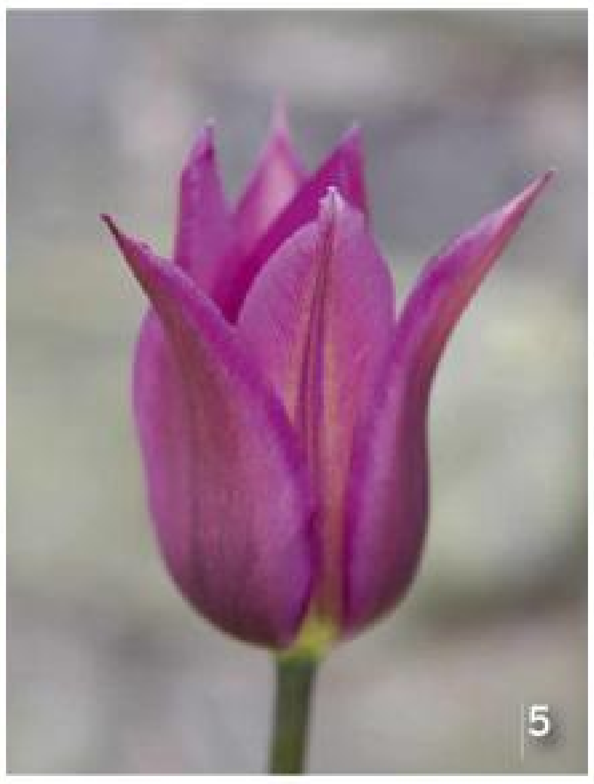

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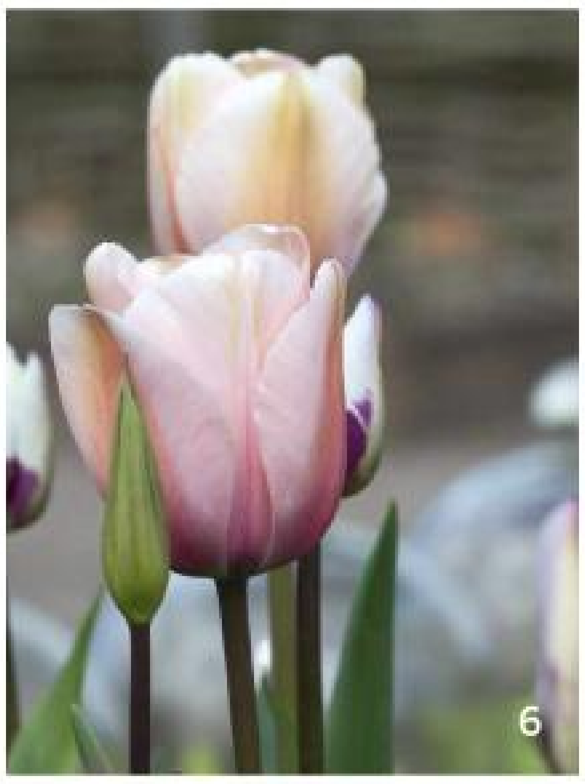

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3 JONATHAN BUCKLEY FOR SARAH RAVEN

Layer upon layer

These pots by the house give an amazing month-long successional display of colour that starts with violas in winter, is followed by *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Miss Saigon', then is packed with the double blooms of *T.* 'Blue Diamond' and finishes in late May with the tall, elegant forms of *T.* 'Elegant Lady' and *T.* 'Cum Laude'.

1 *T.* 'White Parrot'
This exquisite tulip is the colour of creamy milk with a feathery texture (true to its name) that gives it real glamour. You'll definitely want to steal a few from the pot, and they last really well in a vase. Late April – early May. 40cm. USDA 4a-7b.

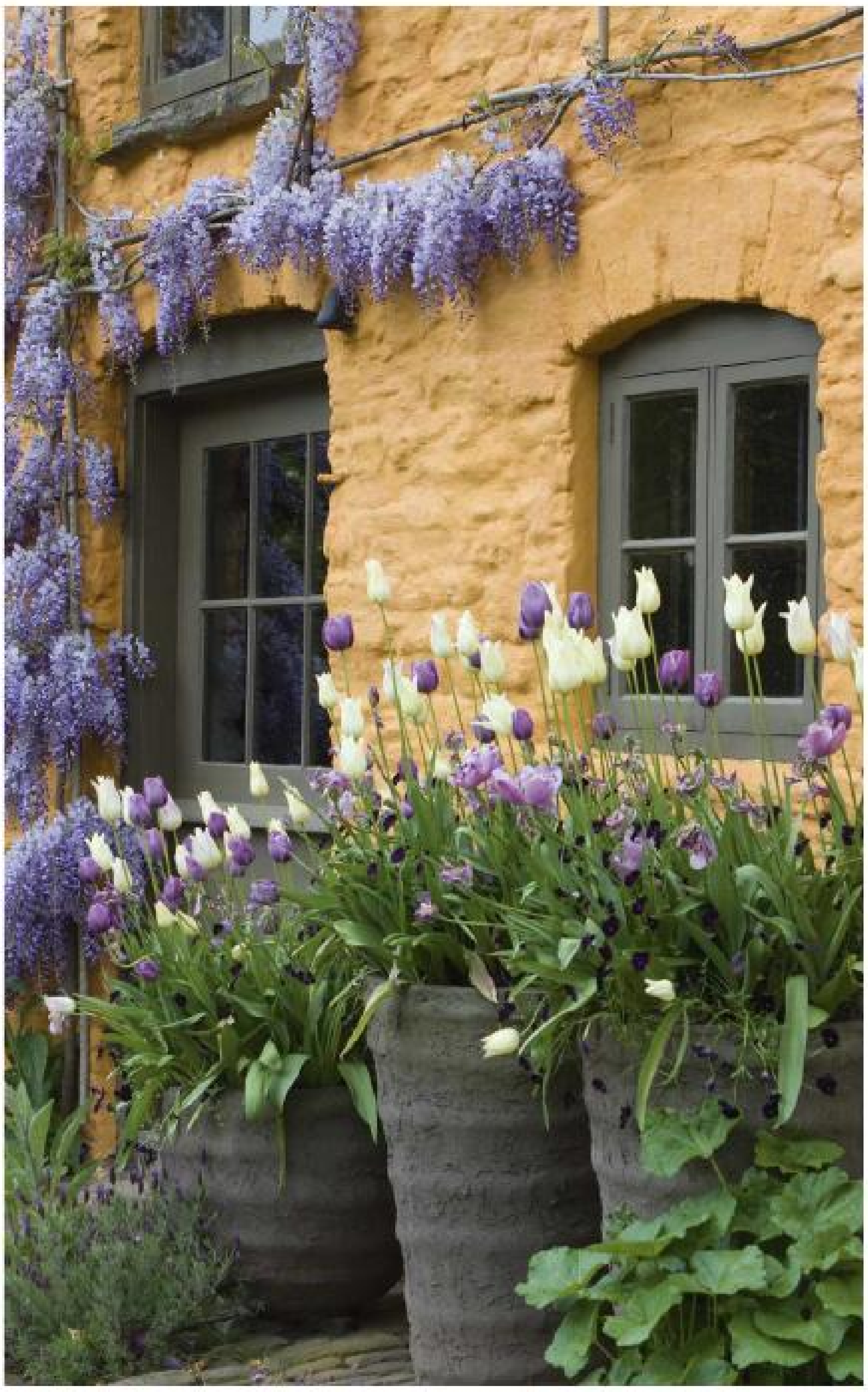
2 *T.* 'Elegant Lady'
A delicate pink and cream bloom with an exquisite almost hourglass shape. Over time the pink fades to almost white, adding yet another layer of colour. Early – late May. 60cm. USDA 4a-8b.

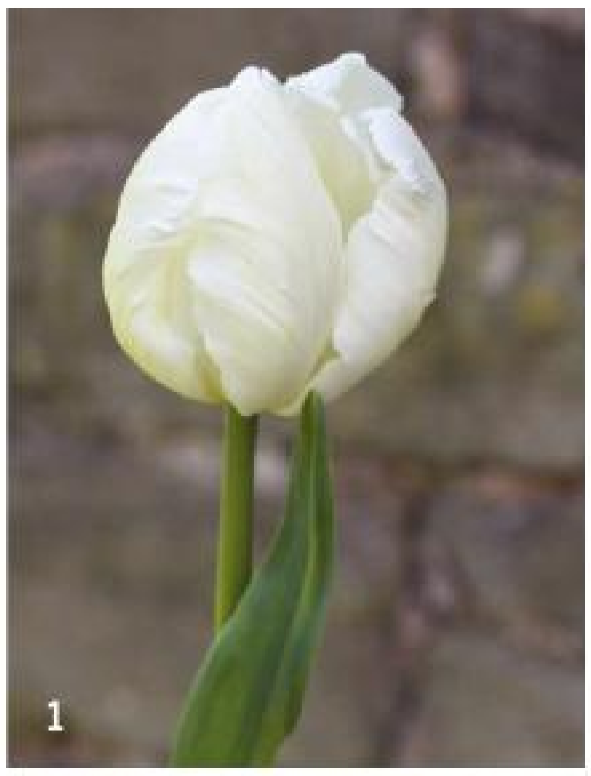
3 *Viola* 'Roscastle Black'
This brings life to the pot even before the bulbs start to show. Then it threads itself wonderfully through the emerging bulbs giving a smattering of dark, rich velvet among the bigger blooms. 15cm. USDA 7a-9a.

4 *T.* 'Blue Diamond'
Magnificent double lilac/purple that takes centre stage. Early – mid May. 40cm.

5 *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Miss Saigon'
This stunning bloom brings the first full flush of vibrant colour in this combination. March – April 30cm. AGM*.

6 *T.* 'Cum Laude'
This elegant, single, late tulip is a bluish purple, with a silver bloom. It's almost a perfect match for the wisteria behind. Early – late May. 50cm. USDA 3a-9b.

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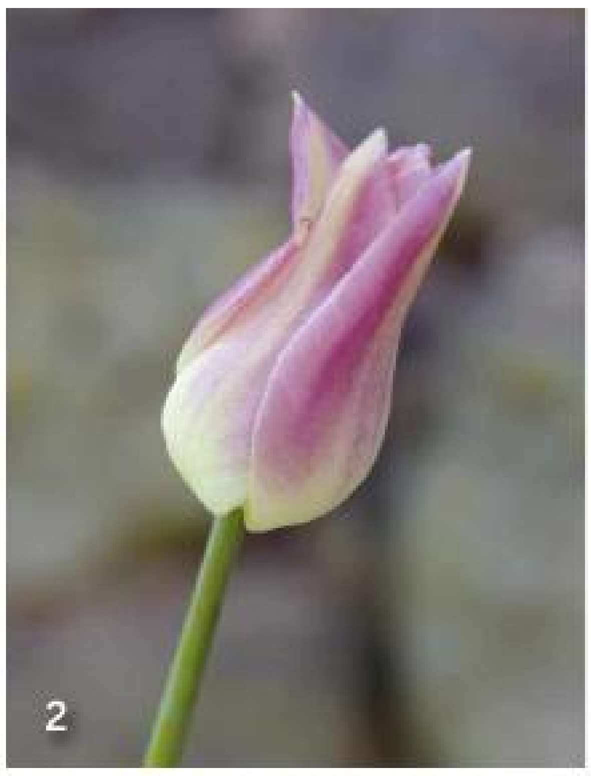
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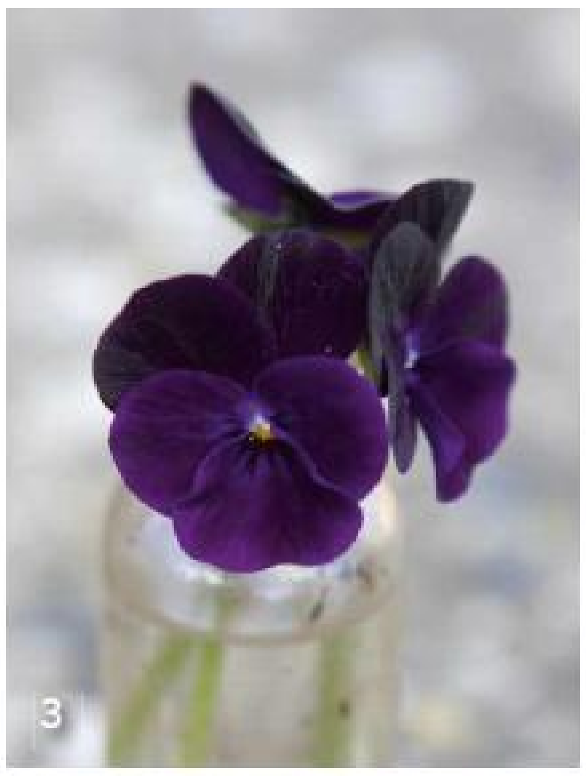
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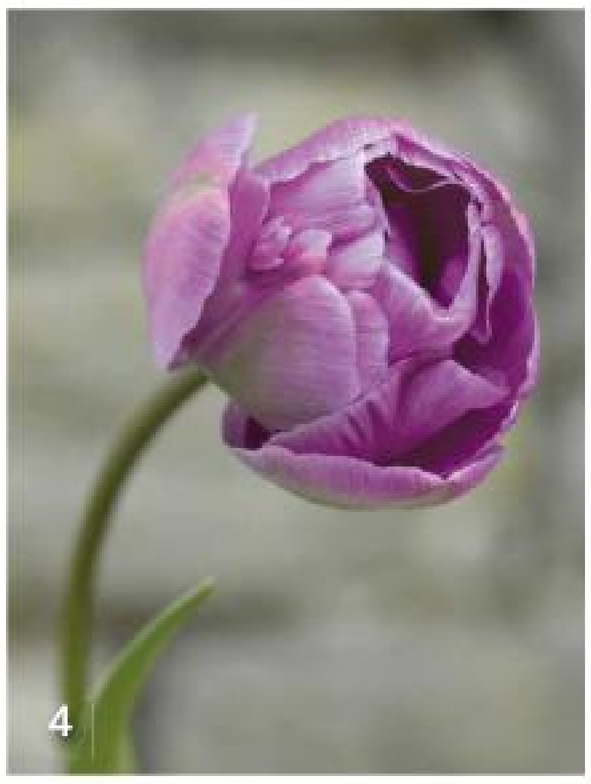
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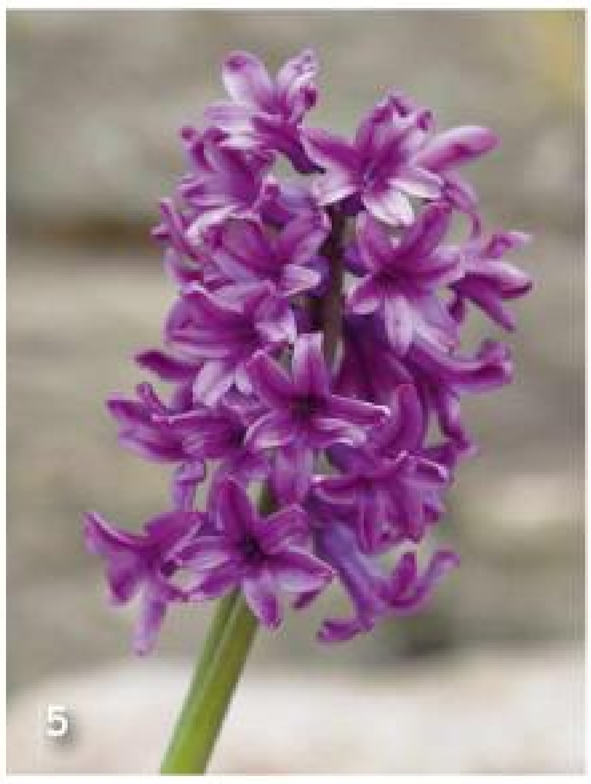
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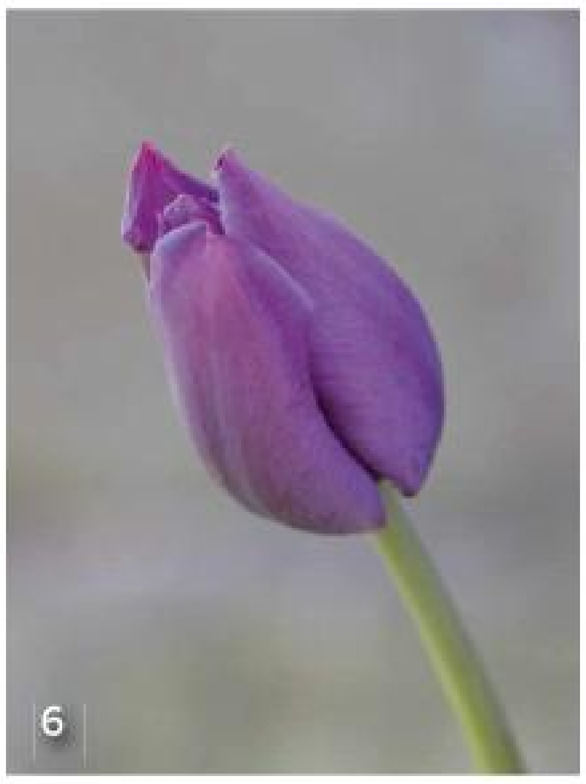
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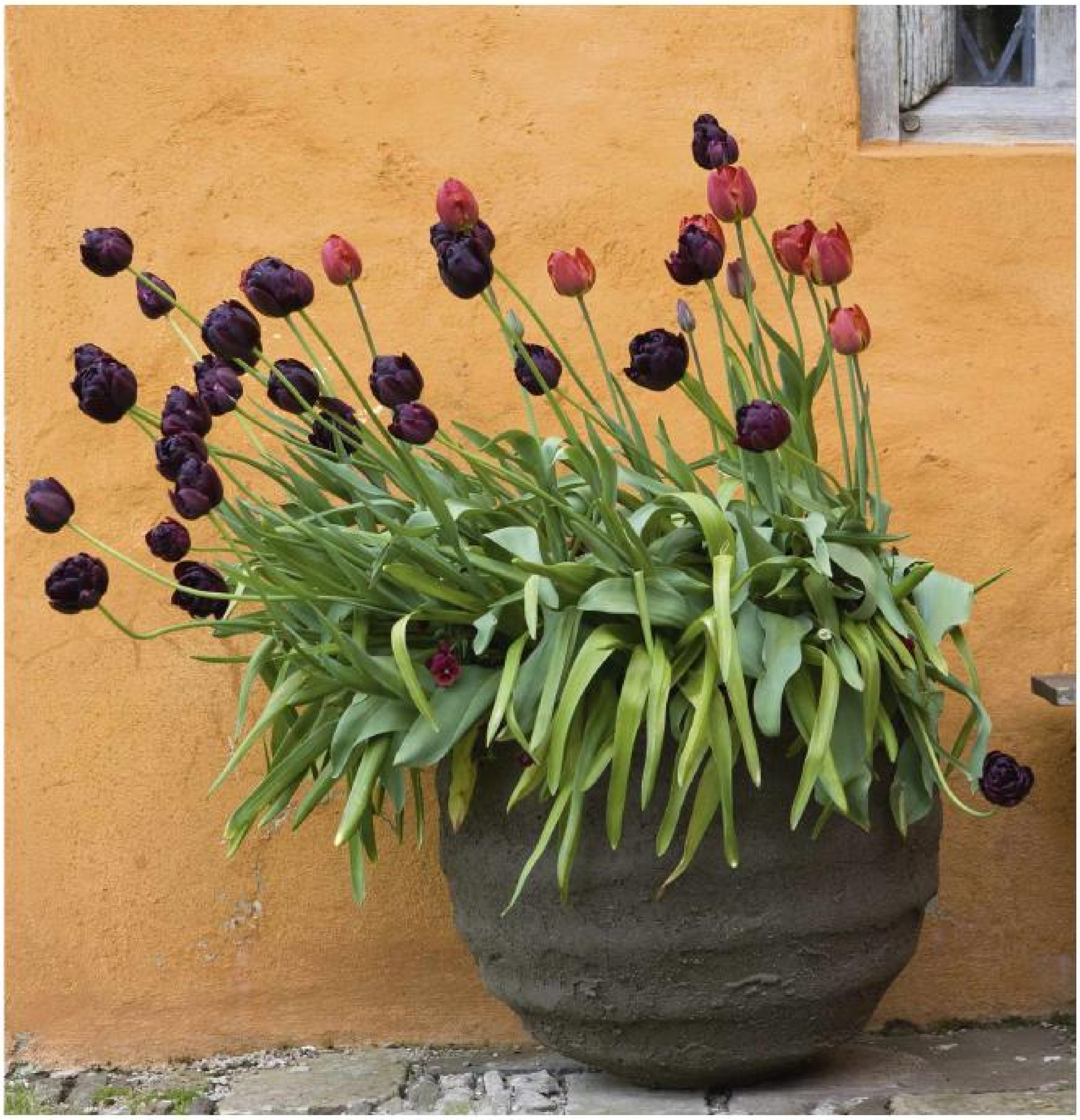


Burnt toffee

Apart from white hyacinths for early season interest, this pot was planted entirely with tulips. In May *T.* 'Black Hero' and *T.* 'James Wild' mix shades of rich toffee and burnt orange, a combination that matches the earthy colours and the textures of both the pot and the wall behind.

1 *T.* 'James Wild'
This is a rare Breeder tulip, with the fantastic subtlety of colouring that all Breeder types have. They are not widely available but Jacques Amand offers a great range of Breeders, including the slightly darker brown, more mahogany 'Dom Pedro' with similar subtleties. May. 50cm. USDA 3a-8b.

2 *T.* 'Black Hero'
Is a double form of *T.* 'Queen of Night' long flowering and reliable. Mid April – early May. 60cm. USDA 3a-8b.

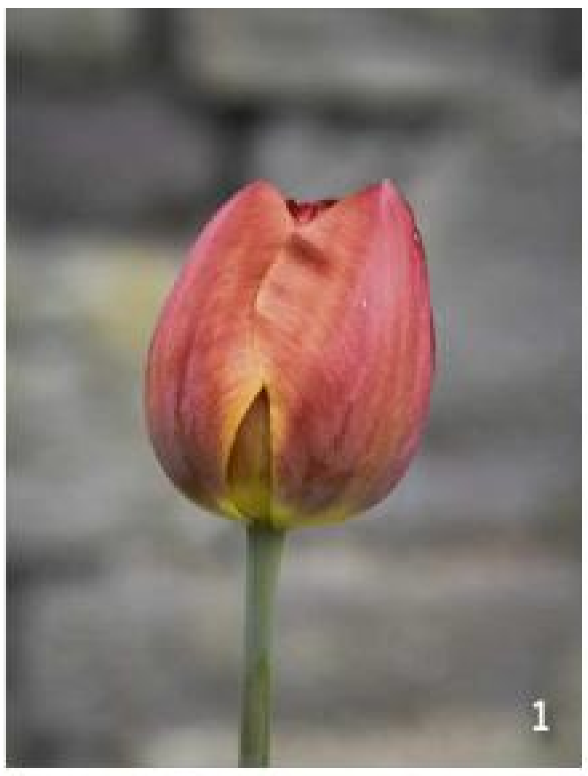
3 *T.* 'Ronaldo'
The silvery bloom on the dark cranberry red makes this exceptional and gives it the subtlety needed to mix well with different tones. Mid – late April. 35cm. USDA 4a-8b.

4 *T.* 'Apricot Beauty'
Unusual salmon tones, with a hint of orangey red. Early – late April. 45cm. USDA 3a-7b.

5 *T.* 'Albert Heijn'
This early flowering tulip has salmon tones in the centre and pale pink edges to the petals. March – April. 35cm. USDA 3a-8b.

6 *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Aiolos'
Fresh white hyacinths are the perfect foil to the early salmon pinks of this combination, before the richer darker tulips take over. April. 25-30cm.

*Holds an award of garden merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.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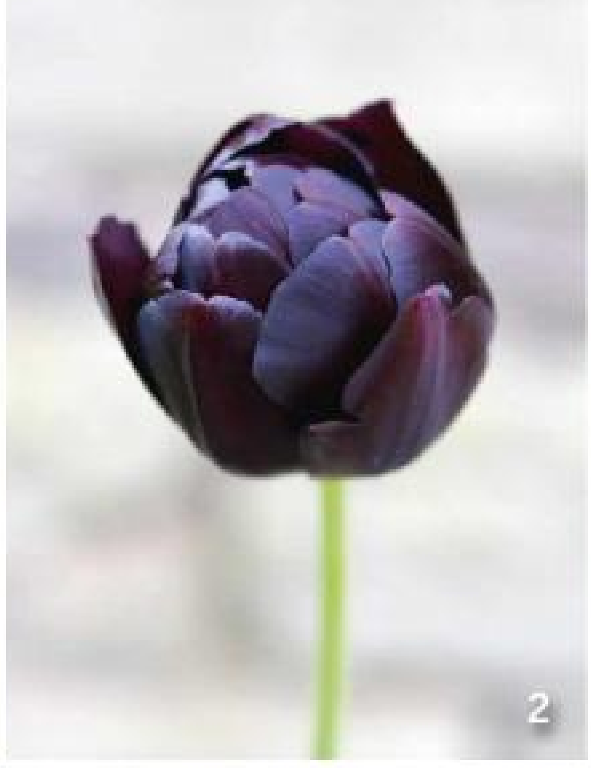
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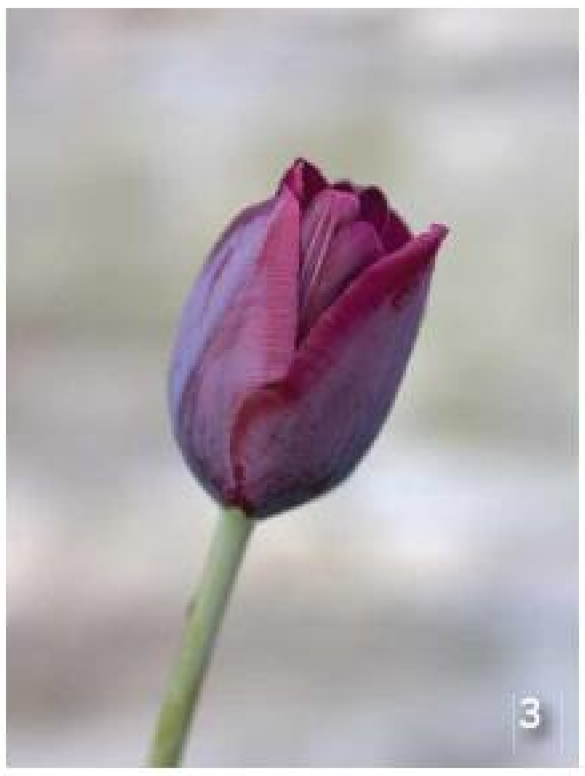
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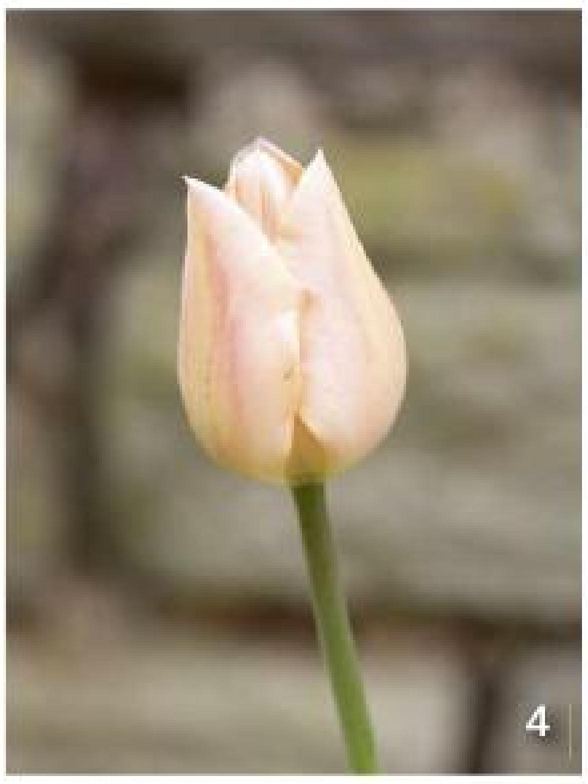
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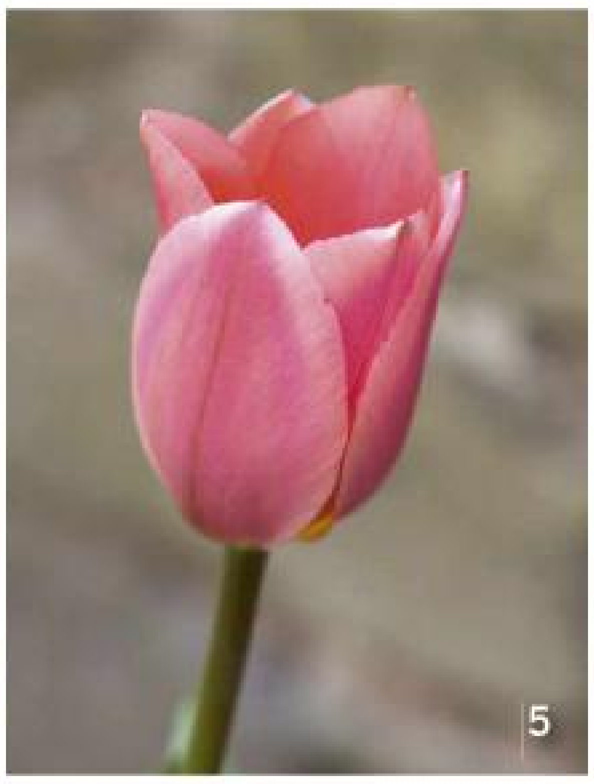
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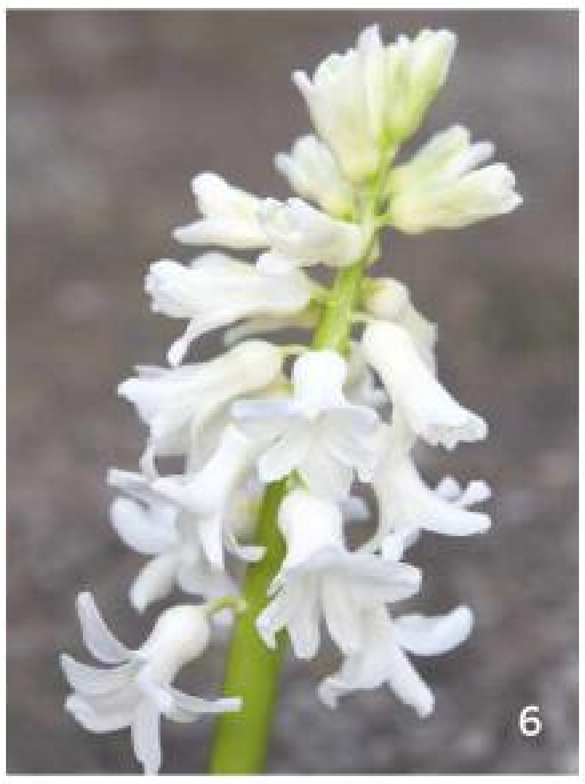
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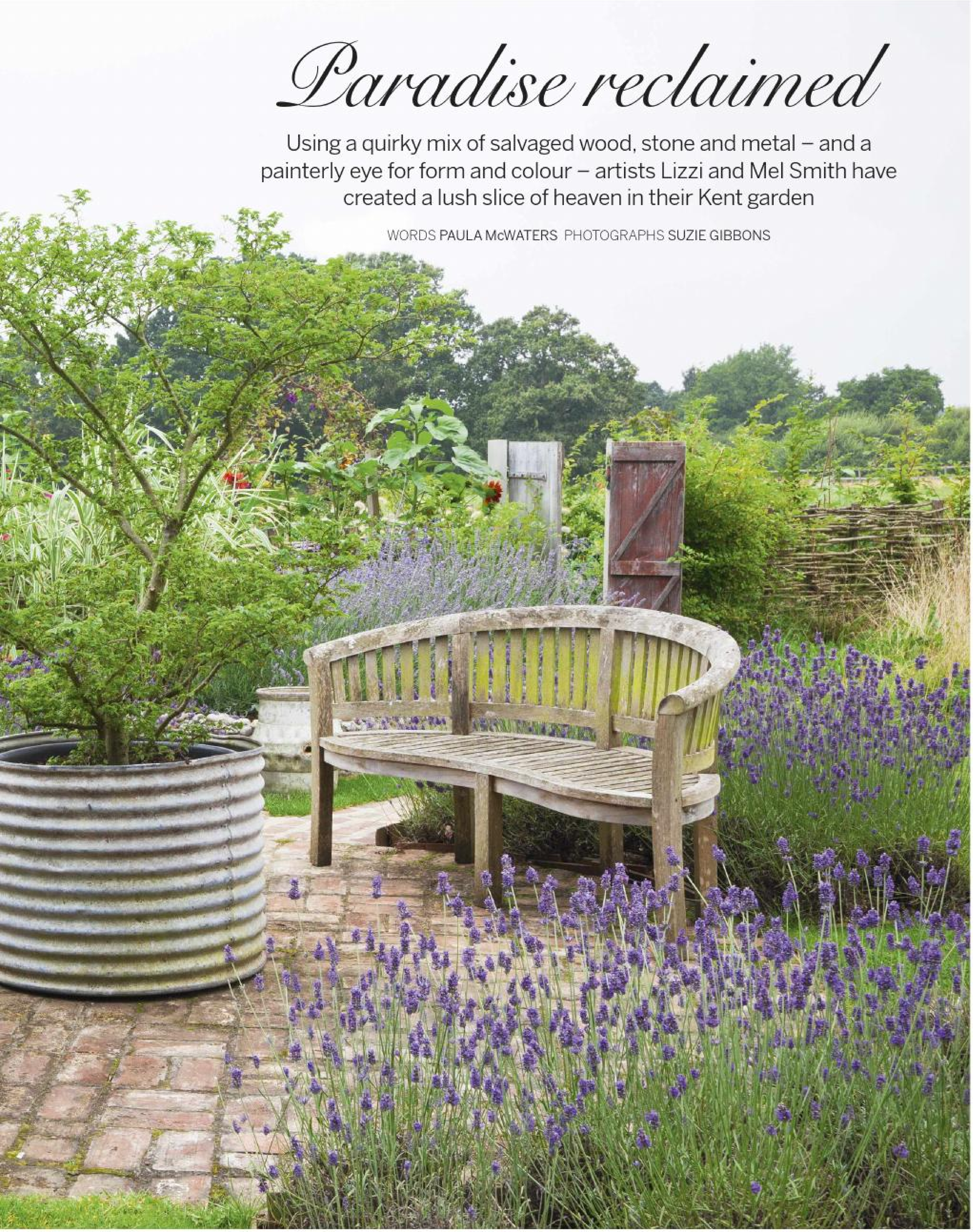
READER OFFER
Turn to page 100 for an exclusive GARDENS ILLUSTRATED bulb offer from Peter Nyssen and create your own bulb displays inspired by Arne's combinations.

In brief

Name Rose Farm Studio.
What Low-lying country garden adjoining farmland.
Where Near Ashford, Kent.
Size Just over one acre.
Climate Prone to fog and frost.
Soil Clay.
Points of interest Massed annuals, late summer beds, vegetable garden, quirky finds.

Clumps of *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead' surround the reclaimed brick patio, built by Mel. At its centre is an *Ulmus* x *hollandica* 'Jacqueline Hillier' growing in a salvaged galvanised pot.



Paradise reclaimed

Using a quirky mix of salvaged wood, stone and metal – and a painterly eye for form and colour – artists Lizzi and Mel Smith have created a lush slice of heaven in their Kent garden

WORDS **PAULA McWATERS** PHOTOGRAPHS **SUZIE GIBBONS**

1

2

Lizzi and Mel Smith started their garden right outside the kitchen door and they have been moving forward from there, ever since. "I'd like to say there was a grand plan, but there definitely wasn't!" says Mel. "Most of what we have done here has been borne out of necessity: we wanted to grow vegetables because we have a big family [six children between them], so we started a vegetable garden; we needed a path to keep our feet out of the wet in winter, so we laid some reclaimed bricks; we had a pile of spoil from digging a pond, so we turned it into a grassy mound, and so on."

This modest admission does not cover the fact that both Mel, a professional portrait photographer, and Lizzi, an artist, have a keenly developed eye for style and for turning what others might see as junk into attractive assets for their garden. The complex of inter-related, single-storey buildings that make up their photographic studio, office and home has taken on a distinctive style in their care, likened by visitors to "a house in New Zealand or the West Indies". It certainly feels like island living when everything is lush and green around them.

For years, they gardened in tubs and containers in the driveway out front but a chance to buy the strip of land behind the house four years ago opened up new potential, with a sunset aspect and a great view across fields. Rotovating the compacted heavy clay proved impossible, so they created raised beds with old scaffold boards from a local salvage yard Symonds (symondssalvage.co.uk), and filled them with free-draining topsoil and compost.

Mel subscribes to the obsessive-compulsive approach to gardening, so the beds were finished in record time, by spotlight, on wintry evenings, to be up and running by February. "We were blown away by how much produce we had, even in our first year. It was extraordinary." Buoyed up by success, Mel and Lizzi have made their way across the back garden, creating new features and flowerbeds as they go. They never travel far for materials, having keyed into local sources that can provide what they need quickly and easily. As they work from home they can spend every spare minute in the garden when the studio isn't busy. The garden is built for enjoyment too, with a firepit surrounded by a 'stone' circle fashioned from upended sleepers, a treehouse and now a pond.

Mel has constructed snaking, reclaimed-brick paths and, after months of dragging garden furniture out on to a certain spot ▷

1 In the cutting garden, the short orange *Dahlia* 'Happy Halloween' and purple *D.* 'Thomas A Edison' jostle for space with *Helianthus annuus* 'Moonwalker', rambling nasturtiums and fluffy *Pennisetum villosum*.

2 Brick paths divide the raised beds of the cutting garden where *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer', sweet peas, marigolds, cosmos and dahlias all thrive.

3 *Vitis vinifera* growing up the house gives it an island feel, accentuated by driftwood thrones, bought in Sussex, a reclaimed cable-reel table and tree-stump stools from local woodland.

▷ on the grass, they concluded that this was the place to create a round terrace for it. Galvanised water tanks and bins make bold, capacious planters, filled with massed sunflowers, underplanted with nasturtiums and squashes. In the raised beds they like to plant in big blocks. "Everything just seems to look better that way," says Lizzi. Support, where it's needed, is fashioned from hazel or willow – they have a free source of hazel nearby – and a living willow arch now covers one of the paths (see picture opposite). Woven hazel fences both contain beds and provide support for any wayward dahlias or climbers.

Annuals, such as cornflowers and cosmos, grow tall in their care, which Mel puts down to his attention to detail. "We grow most things from seed in the greenhouse or polytunnel and we take time to harden things off, so we are always carrying trays to and fro."

"If things don't take the first time, we sow again," adds Lizzi. "Once the seedlings are big enough, Mel plants them out. He insists on regimented lines, precisely spaced for vegetables such as Cavalo Nero, curly kale, cabbages and sweet corn – not a plant out of place."

The result is exuberant order interlaced with sunflowers and *Cerinthe major* for colour. Hazel wigwams and woven hazel cloches hanging from posts add the height the garden currently lacks while it is still ▷

Above *Helianthus annuus* 'Firecracker', grown from seed, has been massed together in raised beds created with railway sleepers.

Facing page

1 Mel wove this hurdle fencing for the garden from locally sourced hazel.

2 In the vegetable garden, raised beds have been block-planted with *Centaurea cyanus* for maximum impact.

3 On the back verandah, even the watering cans, tools and spare terracotta pots have been arranged with an artist's eye.

4 *Helianthus annuus* 'Irish Eyes' grows alongside trailing pumpkins in a reclaimed galvanised water tank on the verandah.

5 Brick paths snake through a living willow tunnel – all made by Mel.

6 Old timber crates make great containers for lavender. More railway sleepers, here used for a pathway, lead on to a reclaimed-brick path.

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Practical recycling

The secret to making the best use of quirky objects is to limit your palette of materials; use too many disparate things and you risk turning your garden into a version of a salvage yard. Lizzi and Mel have gone for galvanised metal (water tanks, bins, milk churns etc) for planters, wood for raised beds, decking and so on, and hazel for fencing and plant supports. Keep it local, if possible, to avoid mileage or hefty delivery costs – Lizzi and Mel use a salvage yard in the next village and source hazel locally from a friend's woodland.

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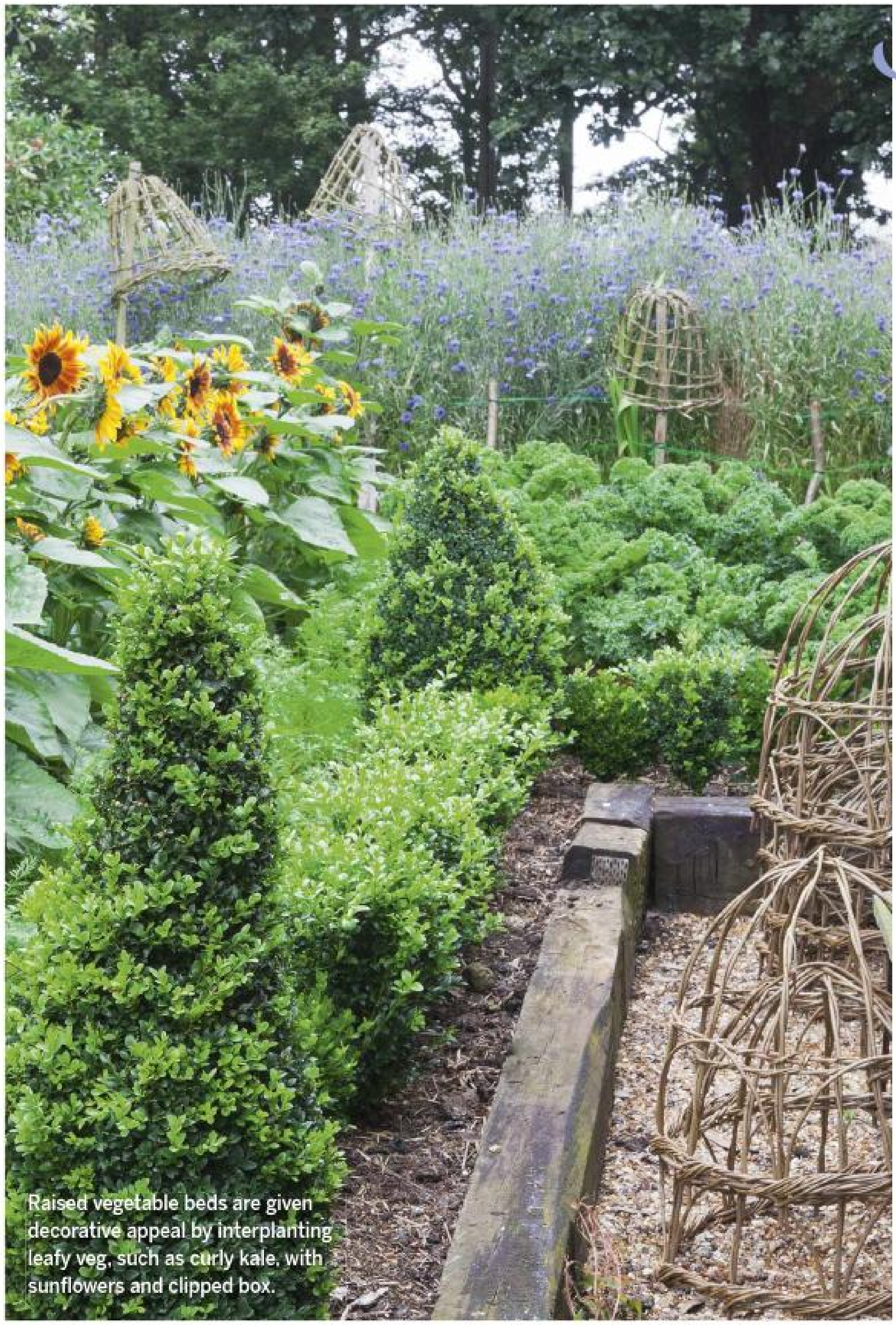

Raised vegetable beds are given decorative appeal by interplanting leafy veg, such as curly kale, with sunflowers and clipped box.

▷ maturing. As summer fades into autumn, tall plants like cardoons are left standing for the same reason.

A pair of old wooden doors marks the entrance to the flower garden where there is still a great profusion of colour in late summer. Mel and Lizzi choose varieties carefully, so each earns its place. They buy a lot from Sarah Raven and although this means they sometimes have to pay more for seed or tubers, Mel reckons the results they get are more than worth the outlay. Other influences have been Monty Don's books and Derek Jarman's garden at Dungeness.

The site at Rose Farm is far from ideal – "flat, wet, cold and exposed," complains Mel – yet by working out that raised beds were the way forward, Mel and Lizzi have created a flamboyant garden that overflows with impact. □

FURTHER INFORMATION

Address Rose Farm Studio, Rose Farm Road, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent TN27 0RG.

Tel 01233 840754.

Website melsmithphotography.co.uk

Open Garden not open in 2013 because of building works but is usually open on the first weekend in August, under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) – look out for dates next year on the NGS website (ngs.org.uk).

9 of Lizzi and Mel's favourite plants for late summer

1 *Dahlia* 'Thomas A Edison'
A knock-out colour and quite tall with flowers of 15cm or more across so best to stake if planted in a windy spot. 1m.

2 *Dahlia* 'Ambition'
This spiky, purple cactus dahlia is a prolific flowerer and looks stunning in bud and in flower. Stands out well against *Pennisetum villosum*. 90cm.

3 *Alcea rosea* 'Crème de Cassis'
The fading berry colours of this hollyhock are reminiscent of antique fabric. Exceptionally pretty, it sits well alongside other cottage favourites such as angelica and sweet peas. 150-180cm. USDA 3a-9b[†].

4 *Pennisetum villosum*
These soft, fluffy inflorescences bob around in the breeze and look great along the edge of a border backlit by the sun. 60cm. AGM*.

5 *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Dazzler' and 'Rubenza'
Gorgeous carmine pink 'Dazzler' and slightly darker 'Rubenza' flowers keep on coming all summer long and are fade resistant. Great value and impact as a cutting flower, with lovely feathery foliage. 80-120cm.

6 *Cynara cardunculus*
Statuesque and dramatic, Lizzi and Mel leave these standing as long as possible to enjoy their silhouettes into autumn. Strip the lower leaves to stop them falling over. 150cm. AGM. USDA 7a-9b.

7 *Dahlia* 'Happy Halloween'
This brilliantly clear pompom is so-called because it's exactly the colour of a pumpkin. Produces lots of flowers and the dark leaves contrast with them beautifully. 90cm.

8 *Helianthus annuus* 'Irish Eyes'
A great little multi-stemmed sunflower for containers because it's so compact. The dark-brown centres contrast well with the sunshine yellow petals. 45cm.

9 *Helianthus annuus* 'Firecracker'
Fabulous multi-headed, F1 dwarf sunflower with dark centre and petals that graduate from deep orange to yellow. Short and sturdy so works well in containers. 75cm.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

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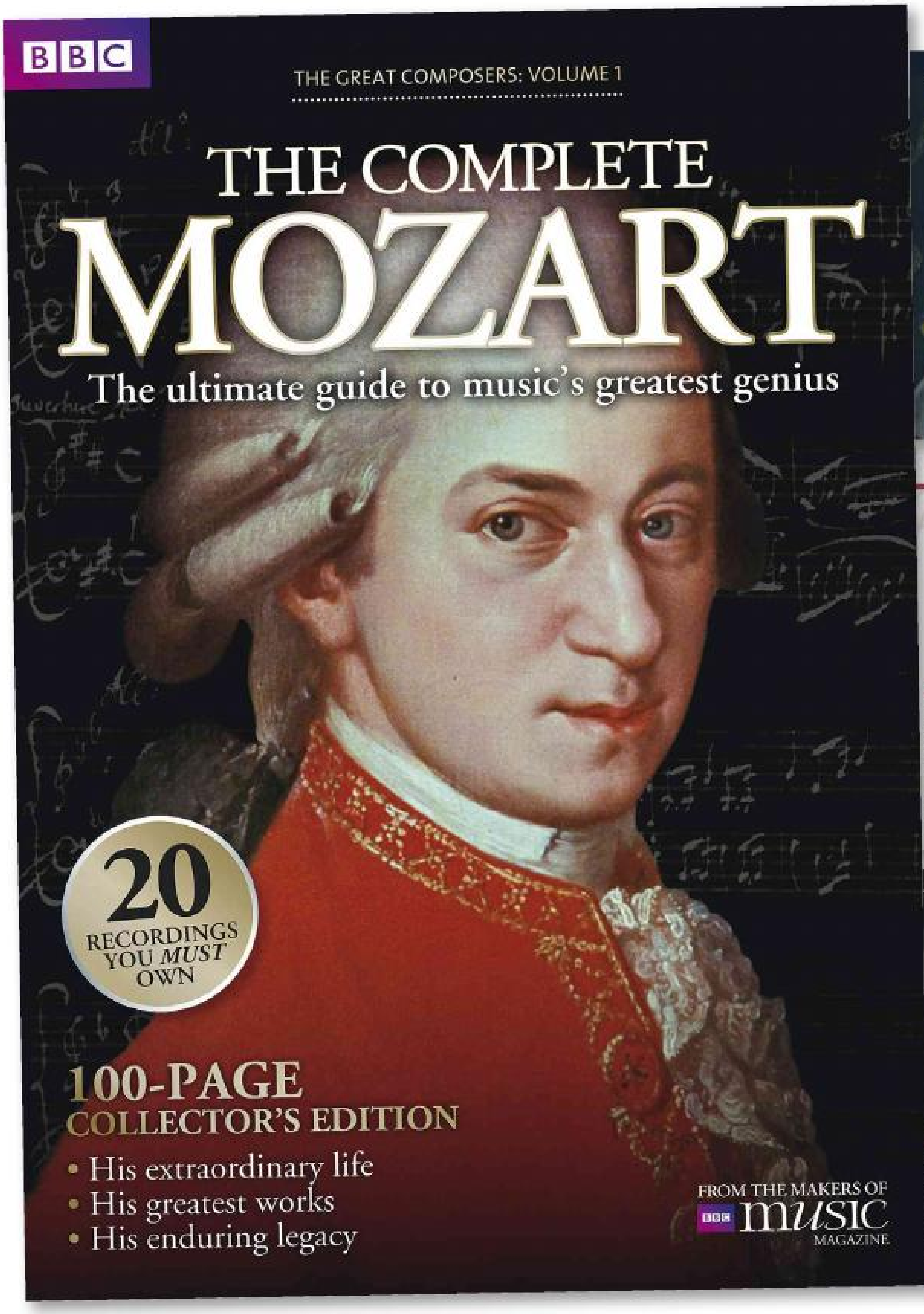
From the makers of *BBC Music Magazine*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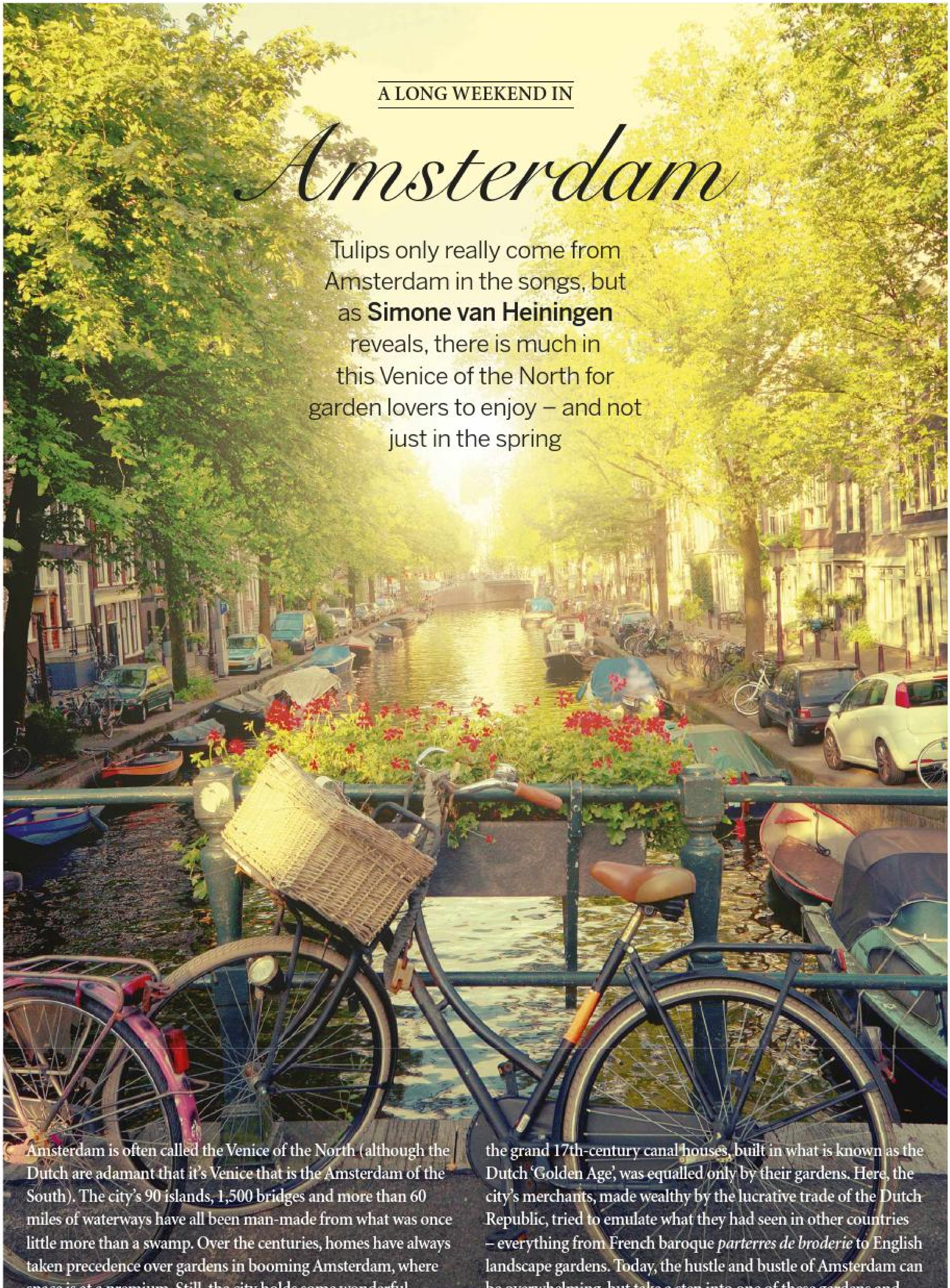


A LONG WEEKEND IN

Amsterdam

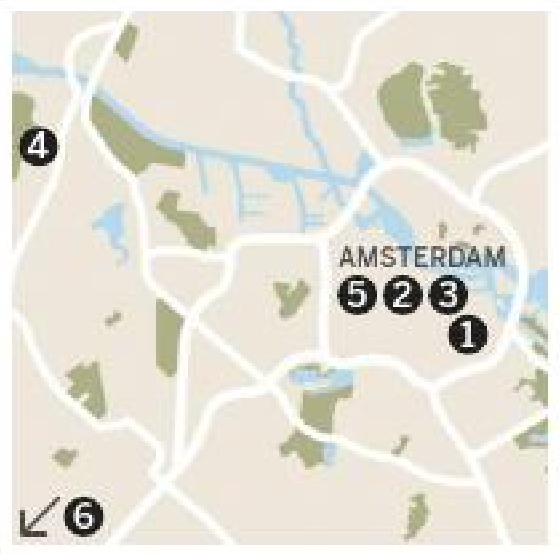
Tulips only really come from Amsterdam in the songs, but as **Simone van Heiningen** reveals, there is much in this Venice of the North for garden lovers to enjoy – and not just in the spring

Amsterdam is often called the Venice of the North (although the Dutch are adamant that it's Venice that is the Amsterdam of the South). The city's 90 islands, 1,500 bridges and more than 60 miles of waterways have all been man-made from what was once little more than a swamp. Over the centuries, homes have always taken precedence over gardens in booming Amsterdam, where space is at a premium. Still, the city holds some wonderful – mostly hidden – green gems. The impressive architecture of the grand 17th-century canal houses, built in what is known as the Dutch 'Golden Age', was equalled only by their gardens. Here, the city's merchants, made wealthy by the lucrative trade of the Dutch Republic, tried to emulate what they had seen in other countries – everything from French baroque *parterres de broderie* to English landscape gardens. Today, the hustle and bustle of Amsterdam can be overwhelming, but take a step into one of these gardens and you'll find yourself in a world of peace and quiet.

GETTY / SVARIOPHOTO

Gardens to visit in and around Amsterdam

Discover some of the spectacular gardens and little oases of calm that remain hidden behind Amsterdam's impressive canal houses



❻ JAPANESE GARDEN, CLINGENDAEL

Just a short train ride from Amsterdam, is this magical garden in The Hague's Clingendael Park. Created in 1910 by the adventurous Marguérite Baroness van Brienen, better known as Lady Daisy, it's filled with rare plants and trees – not to mention bridges and a whole pavilion – that she brought back from her numerous trips to Japan.

Website denhaag.nl/en/residents/to/Japanese-Garden-in-Clingendael-Park
Address Main entrance on Wassenaarseweg, The Hague.
Open Limited opening, see website for details. Admission free, suitable for wheelchairs.

❶ PARK FRANKENDAEL

Originally the gardens of a 17th-century manor house, Huize Frankendael, this has become a multifunctional park. There's a botanical garden, a baroque garden, 'school gardens' tended by pupils from neighbouring schools, and the ultra-romantic 'Little Dantzig' – a gardeners' community with little cottages and individual garden plots. If you're feeling peckish, lunch in the park's restaurant De Kas (the Greenhouse) is a must. Chef Gert-Jan Hageman uses vegetables, herbs and edible flowers grown within an arm's length of your table.

Website park-frankendael.nl, restaurantdekas.nl
Address Various entrances at Middenweg and Kamerlingh Onneslaan.
Open Daily. Admission free. Accessible for wheelchairs.

❷ MUSEUM WILLET-HOLTHUYSEN

Upon her death in 1895, Louise Willet-Holthuysen left this 17th-century, double canal house and its contents, including an impressive art collection, to the city of Amsterdam. Although the garden had changed significantly over the centuries, in 1973 the municipality decided to restore it to the French baroque style. Box parterres are filled in with symmetrical motifs in red and white stone-chippings. The garden is surrounded by pleached *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' and lime trees and is adorned with 18th-century statues.

Website willetholthuysen.nl
Address Herengracht 605, Amsterdam.
Open Mon – Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat –Sun, 11am-5pm. Admission €8. Not accessible for wheelchairs.

❸ HORTUS BOTANICUS

In 1682, the founders of this botanic garden – botanist Jan Commelin and Joan Huydecoper, the mayor of Amsterdam – purchased all kinds of exotics, from tulips, hyacinths, orange and olive trees to asparagus, pineapple and okra. Over the centuries the more than 4,500 ships of the Dutch East India Company kept bringing in new species and sometimes taking them back out again – one single coffee plant, *Coffea arabica*, from the Hortus collection, became the ancestor of all plants on coffee plantations in Central and South America.

Website dehortus.nl
Address Plantage Middenlaan 2-A, Amsterdam.
Tel +31 (0)20 625 9021.
Open Daily 10am-5pm. Admission €8.50. Fairly accessible for wheelchairs (gravel paths).

❹ THIJSSE'S HOF

In 1925, the biologist and conservationist Jac P Thijsse received a couple of small potato fields, surrounded by an oak copse, as a 60th birthday present. Together with his friend, the garden designer Leonard A Springer, he set about turning this five-acre plot, in Bloemendaal, east of Amsterdam, into a wild garden that is now home to over 400 species of native plants and 24 species of breeding birds, as well as butterflies, bees and other wildlife. Thijsse helped popularise nature conservation in the Netherlands, and generations of Dutch children have been brought up with his books.

Website thijsseshof.nl
Address Mollaan 4, Bloemendaal.
Tel +31 (0)23 526 2700
Open Apr – Oct, 9am-5pm (closed Mondays); Nov – Mar, 9am-4pm, (closed Sundays and Mondays). Admission free. Accessible for wheelchairs.

❺ MUSEUM VAN LOON

This magnificent canal house was built in 1672 by architect Adriaen Dortsman, and its first occupant was Ferdinand Bol, Rembrandt's most famous pupil. Amazingly, its beautiful formal garden, and the coach house at the back, have remained intact and wandering around it can seem like stepping back in time. In 1884, the wealthy Hendrik van Loon bought the house as a wedding gift for his son Willem, and in 1973, the Van Loon family opened their house and garden to the public.

Website museumvanloon.nl
Address Keizersgracht 672, Amsterdam.
Tel +31 (0)20 624 5255.
Open 11am-5pm, closed Tuesdays. Admission: €8. Not accessible for wheelchairs.

1 MARNIX BIJ DE VAATE, 2 RICHARD DE BRUIJN, 3 BARBARA VAN AMELSFORT
4 MAAYKE DE RIDDER, 5 TOM ELST, 6 MAURICE HAAK

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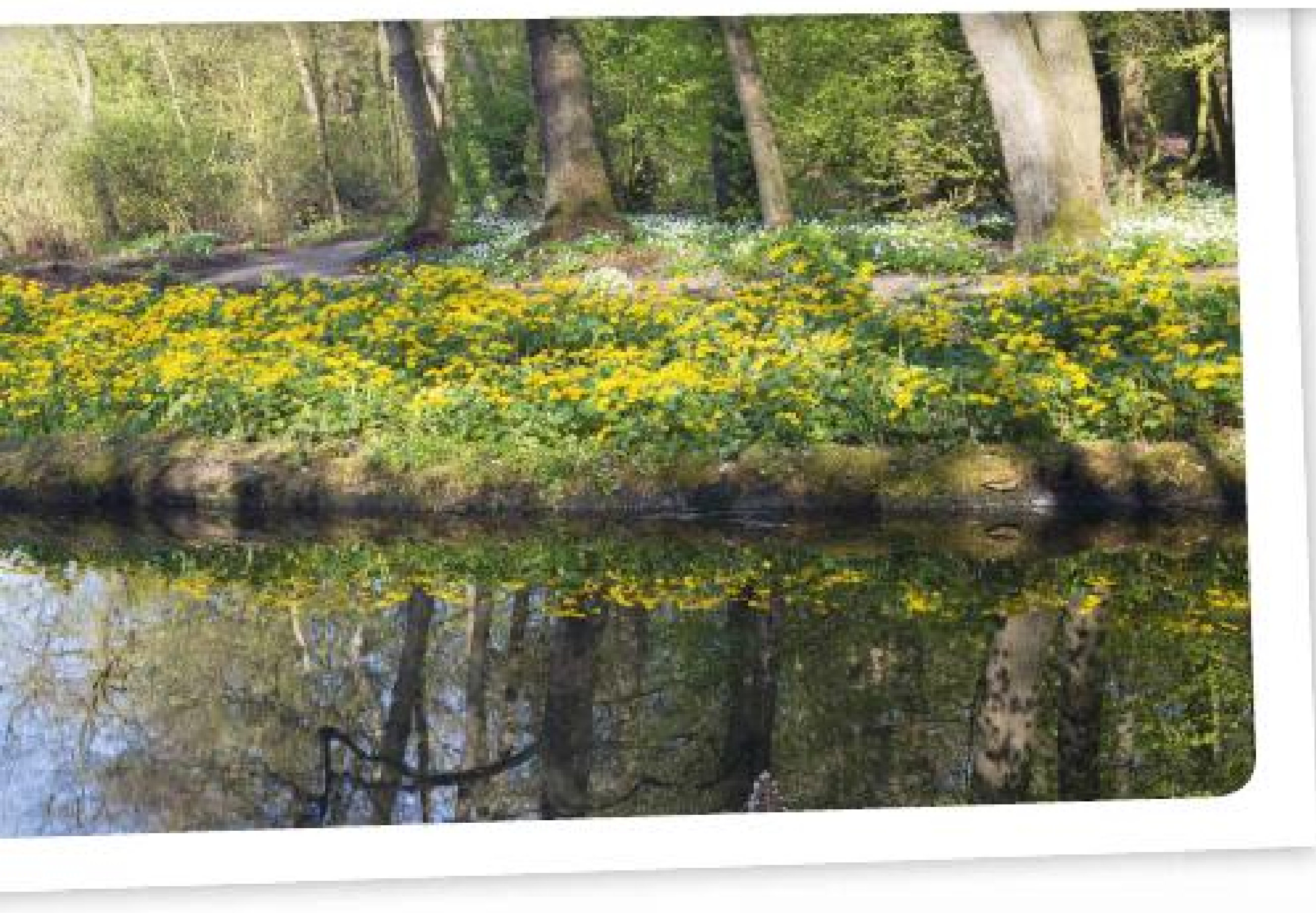

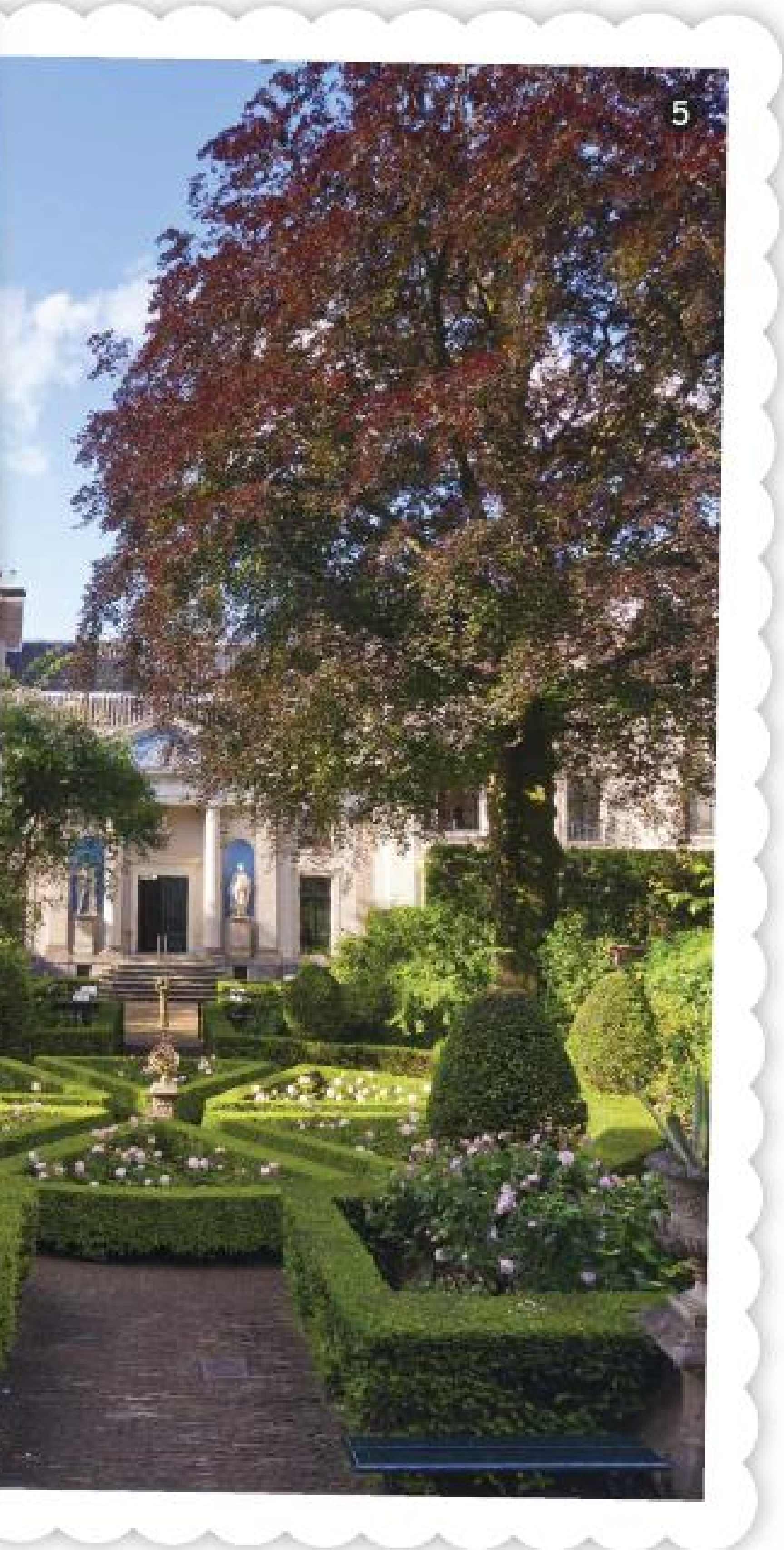
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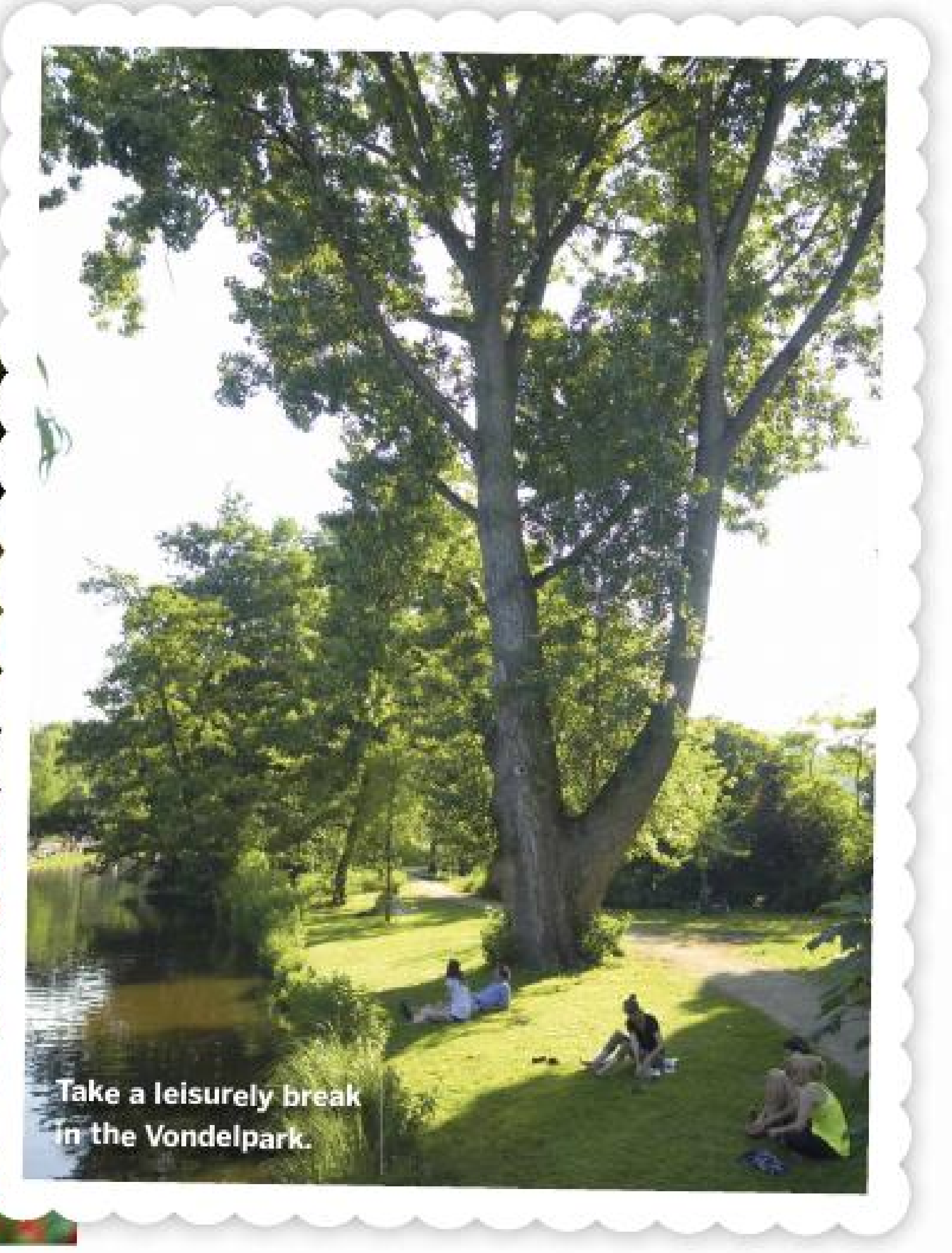
Other places to visit

Make time to visit Amsterdam's famous floating flower market and its other green gems.

Amsterdam's daily floating flower market.


Take a leisurely break in the Vondelpark.

At one time the flowers for the **floating flower market** along the Singel Canal were shipped in by barges. While this is no longer the case, it's about all that has changed since this daily market was first held in 1862. Yes, it is a bit of a tourist trap and prices are high, but it looks fantastic.

A stone's throw from the Hortus Botanicus lies **Natura Artis Magistra** (artis.nl/en/artis-royal-zoo) or 'Artis' as it's more commonly known. During a brief period of French rule, Louis Napoléon Bonaparte – brother of the more famous Napoléon – who had been appointed King of Holland housed his animals in the Hortus's orangery in advance of his grand plan to create a zoo at the Hortus. When he left in 1810, so did the animals and the plans for a zoo were shelved until 1838, when Artis opened its doors at Plantage Kerklaan 38-40. Its glorious gardens and buildings remain pretty much as they were when the zoo was built.

Amsterdam's 'green lung' is the **Vondelpark** (hetvondelpark.net), between Stadhouderskade and Amstelveenseweg, which was designed by Jan David Zocher in 1864. As private gardens are rare in Amsterdam locals tend to make good use of the **Vondelpark**, and around ten million people visit it each year. It's a great place for a picnic and for doing some serious people watching.

If you feel in need of some culture head to the green, open space of **Museumplein** where you can choose between the Rijksmuseum (rijksmuseum.nl/en), the Van Gogh Museum (vangoghmuseum.nl), the Stedelijk Museum (stedelijk.nl/en), or take in a concert at the Concertgebouw (concertgebouw.nl/en).

Amsterdam's Open Garden Days

Wander around the streets of old Amsterdam, and you won't find much in the way of gardens to casually admire. Frustratingly, they're all hidden away behind the impressive canal houses. But you don't have to resort to knocking on people's doors to get to get to look around them; you simply have to visit in June. Every year on the third weekend of June around 30 houses, all within walking distance of each other, open their gardens to the public for three **Open Garden Days** (opentuinendagen.nl). Most are private gardens that remain closed to the public at other times. Next year the Open Garden Days take place on 20-22 June, and a three-day passepartout ticket, will give you access to all the gardens.

Need to know

WHEN TO GO

Go in mid April if you want to visit the famous Keukenhof gardens (keukenhof.nl) or the bulb fields (southwest of Amsterdam), but if you do don't forget your umbrella. May to August is a lot drier, but most Dutch gardens are not overly 'flowery', and look good in any season.

HOW TO GET THERE

KLM (klm.com), easyJet (easyjet.com) and British Airways (britishairways.com) have regular flights to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Eurostar (eurostar.com) from London to Amsterdam takes around four hours.

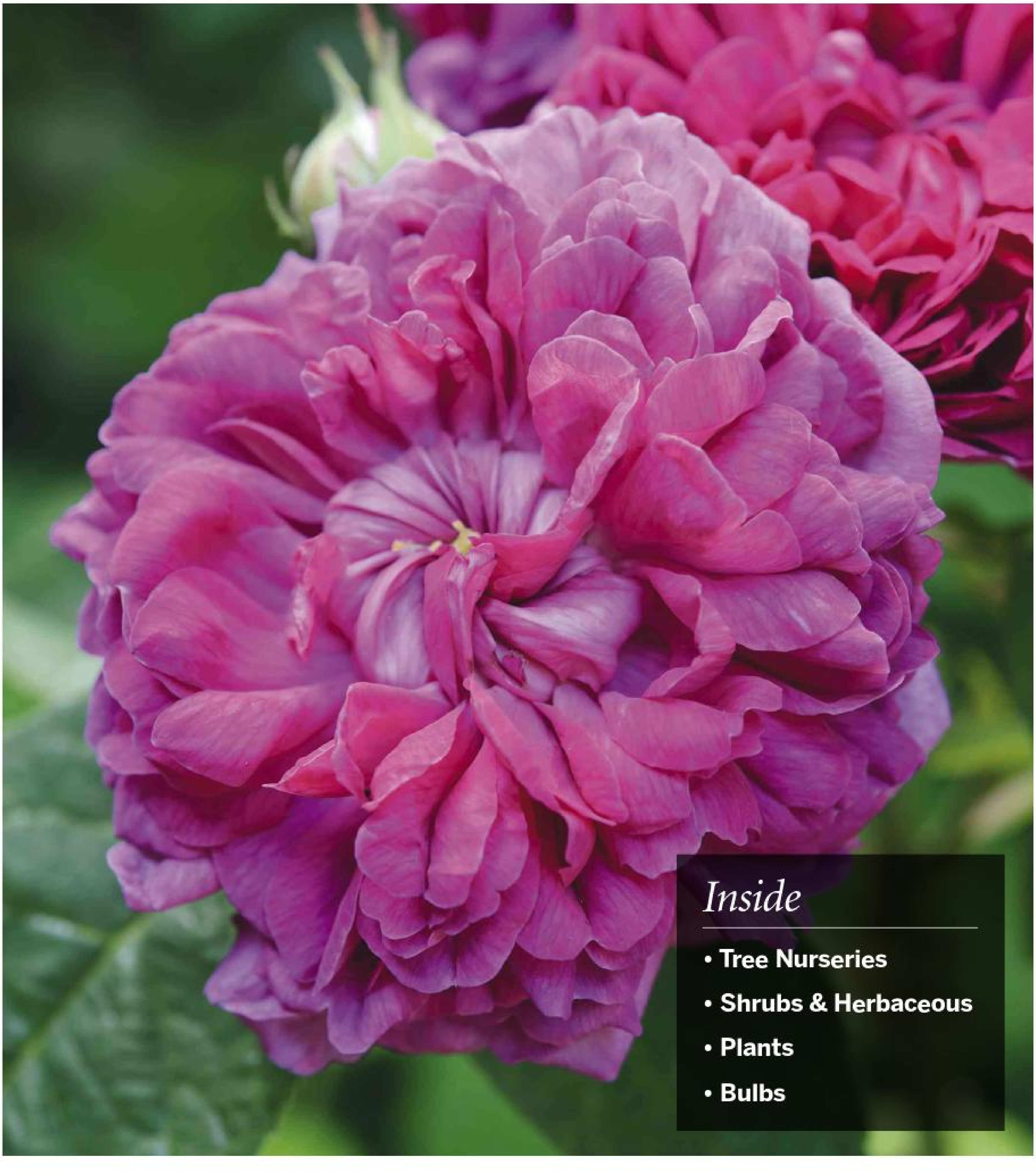
FIND OUT MORE

You'll find all the information you need to plan your stay at iamsterdam.com. From there you can also buy an I Amsterdam City Card, which gives you unlimited access to public transport, as well as free admission to 38 museums and other attractions.

ALEXANDER SHALAMOV / ALAMY, MAAYKE DE RIDDER

Nursery Guide

At GARDENS ILLUSTRATED we champion nurseries that offer excellence in terms of expert horticultural advice and specialist plants. Here's a selection of quality nurseries to visit and shop online over the peak autumn planting season



Inside

- **Tree Nurseries**
- **Shrubs & Herbaceous**
- **Plants**
- **Bulbs**

Majestic Trees

There are a number of 'large' tree nurseries in the UK, but when you actually visit Majestic Trees in person you will find the biggest selection of beautiful trees nationwide, where staff will advise you and help you personally to select the tree you want. Majestic Trees is not a 'sourcing service' but real growers who are passionate about trees and do not cut corners in the development of its stock.

Expert pruning and dedicated husbandry, combined with the trees being grown in an AirPot, ensures that these trees have a fantastic fibrous root system and that they thrive without battling for survival, as is so often the case with rootballed trees. In fact, trees grown in the AirPots are dominant in the show gardens at Chelsea Flower Show each year, because the garden designers know the difference this production method makes to the crown development and the success of their gardens.

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- Fantastic selection of stock for you to choose from, which hasn't been sourced from far-off lands
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- a lack of necessary experience?
- simply an access issue?

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ADDRESS **Water Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 5DH**
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ADDRESS **Dingle Nurseries, Frochas, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9JD**
TEL **01938 555145**
EMAIL **info@dinglenurseryandgarden.co.uk**

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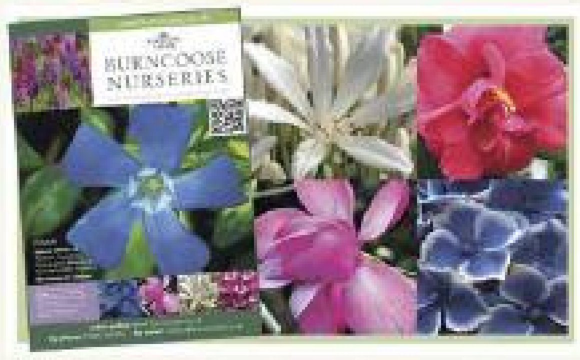
ADDRESS **260 Nottingham Road, Borrowash, Derby DE72 3FR**
TEL **01332 662035**
WEB **www.collyersnurseries.com**

Burncoose Nurseries



Burncoose Nurseries stocks over 3,500 varieties of ornamental trees shrubs and other herbaceous plants. Specialities include camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons, as well as many unusual and rare plants. We are a mail-order business established 30 years ago. Burncoose have won many gold medals for stands at Chelsea Flower Show.

ADDRESS **Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ**
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ADDRESS **Provender Nurseries, The Landscape Centre, Leydenhatch Lane, Swanley, Kent BR8 7PS**
TEL **01322 662315**
WEB **www.provendernurseries.co.uk**
EMAIL **sales@provendernurseries.co.uk**

PROVENDER NURSERIES

Readyhedge

Readyhedge is a specialist wholesale nursery based in Worcestershire. Growing clipped hedging in metre-long units up to 2 metres tall, as well as a wide range of panels and topiary shapes. Mainly supplying designers and landscapers all over the United Kingdom.

ADDRESS **Court Gate Nursery, Station Road, Eckington, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3BB**
TEL **01386 750585**
WEB **www.readyhedgeltd.com**
EMAIL **simon@readyhedgeltd.com**

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Newent Plant Centre

The beautifully laid out garden displays of 'Gloucestershire's Most Inspirational Plant Centre' abound with colour and scent from home-grown perennials and shrubs. As well as all the old fashioned favourites, their 'Collectors Corner' hides a delight of unusual little jewels. Alongside are over 80 varieties of evergreen *Heuchera*, *Tiarella* and *Heucherella*. RHS Gold Medallists.

ADDRESS **Newent Plant Centre, Ledbury Road, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1DL**
TEL **01531 828488**
WEB **www.newentplantcentre.co.uk**

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ADDRESS **Peter Beales Roses, London Road, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1AY**
TEL **01953 454707** WEB **www.classicroses.co.uk**
EMAIL **info@peterbealesroses.com**

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ADDRESS **Winford Rd, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8HJ**
TEL **01275 333752**
WEB **www.chewvalleytrees.co.uk**
EMAIL **info@chewvalleytrees.co.uk**

Chew Valley Trees

Dulford Nurseries

We are a small family run nursery that specialise in a wide range of trees, shrubs and hedging. We sell bareroot and containerised from small to 30-35cm girth and offer a full planting service. There's no order too small and we deliver throughout the country by carrier. Phone for a free catalogue or visit for expert advice.

ADDRESS **Cullompton, Devon EX15 2BY**
TEL **01884 266361**
WEB **www.dulford-nurseries.co.uk**
EMAIL **dulford.nurseries@virgin.net**

DULFORD NURSERIES

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ADDRESS **Woottens of Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9HD**
TEL **01502478258**
WEB **www.woottensplants.com**
EMAIL **info@woottensplants.co.uk**

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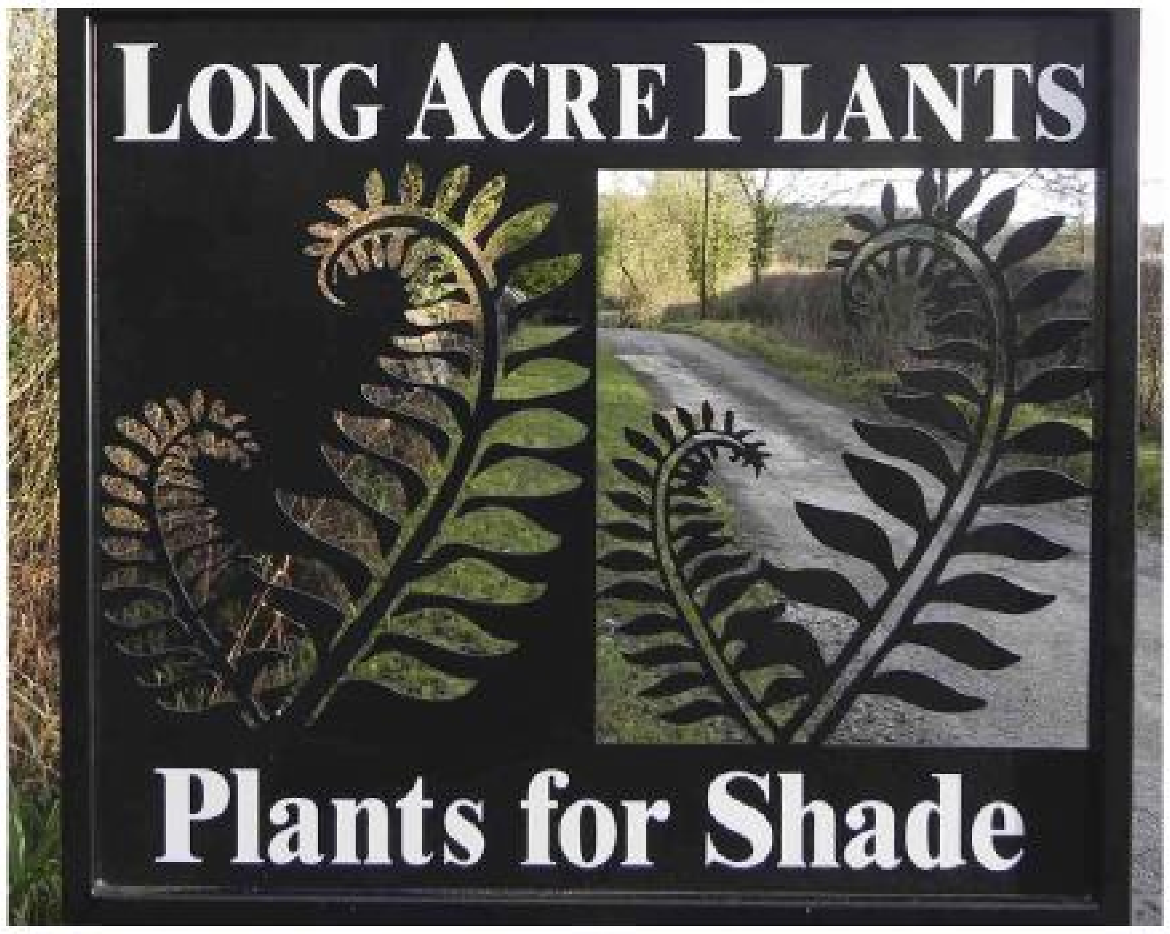

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design

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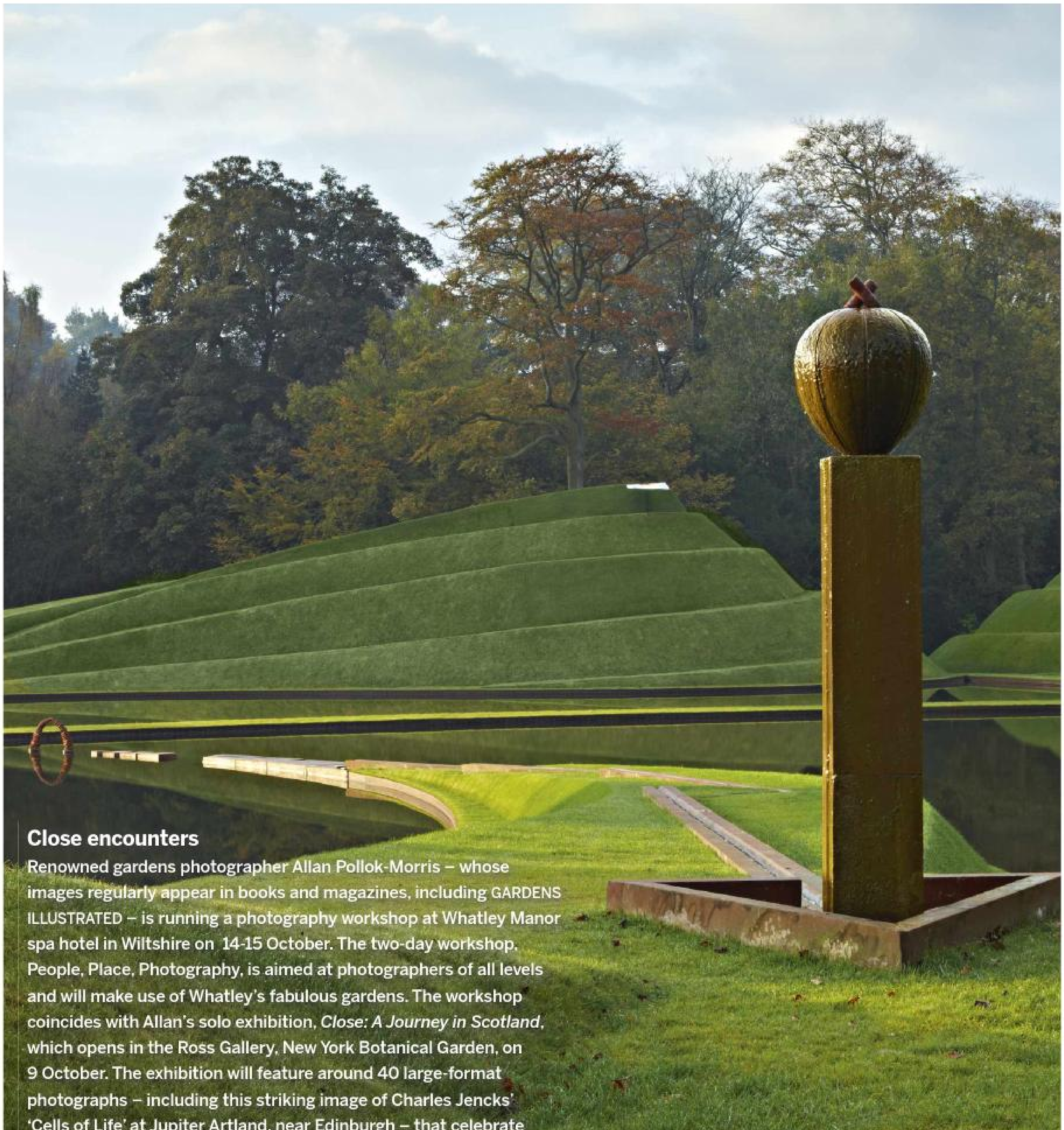

ALLAN POLLOK-MORRIS

Close encounters

Renowned gardens photographer Allan Pollok-Morris – whose images regularly appear in books and magazines, including GARDENS ILLUSTRATED – is running a photography workshop at Whatley Manor spa hotel in Wiltshire on 14-15 October. The two-day workshop, People, Place, Photography, is aimed at photographers of all levels and will make use of Whatley's fabulous gardens. The workshop coincides with Allan's solo exhibition, *Close: A Journey in Scotland*, which opens in the Ross Gallery, New York Botanical Garden, on 9 October. The exhibition will feature around 40 large-format photographs – including this striking image of Charles Jencks' 'Cells of Life' at Jupiter Artland, near Edinburgh – that celebrate the work of designers and artists in the Scottish landscape. You can also see Allan's *Close* photographs in his book of the same name (Northfield Editions, £34.99).

For more information on the photography workshop, visit whatleymanor.com or call 01666 834026.

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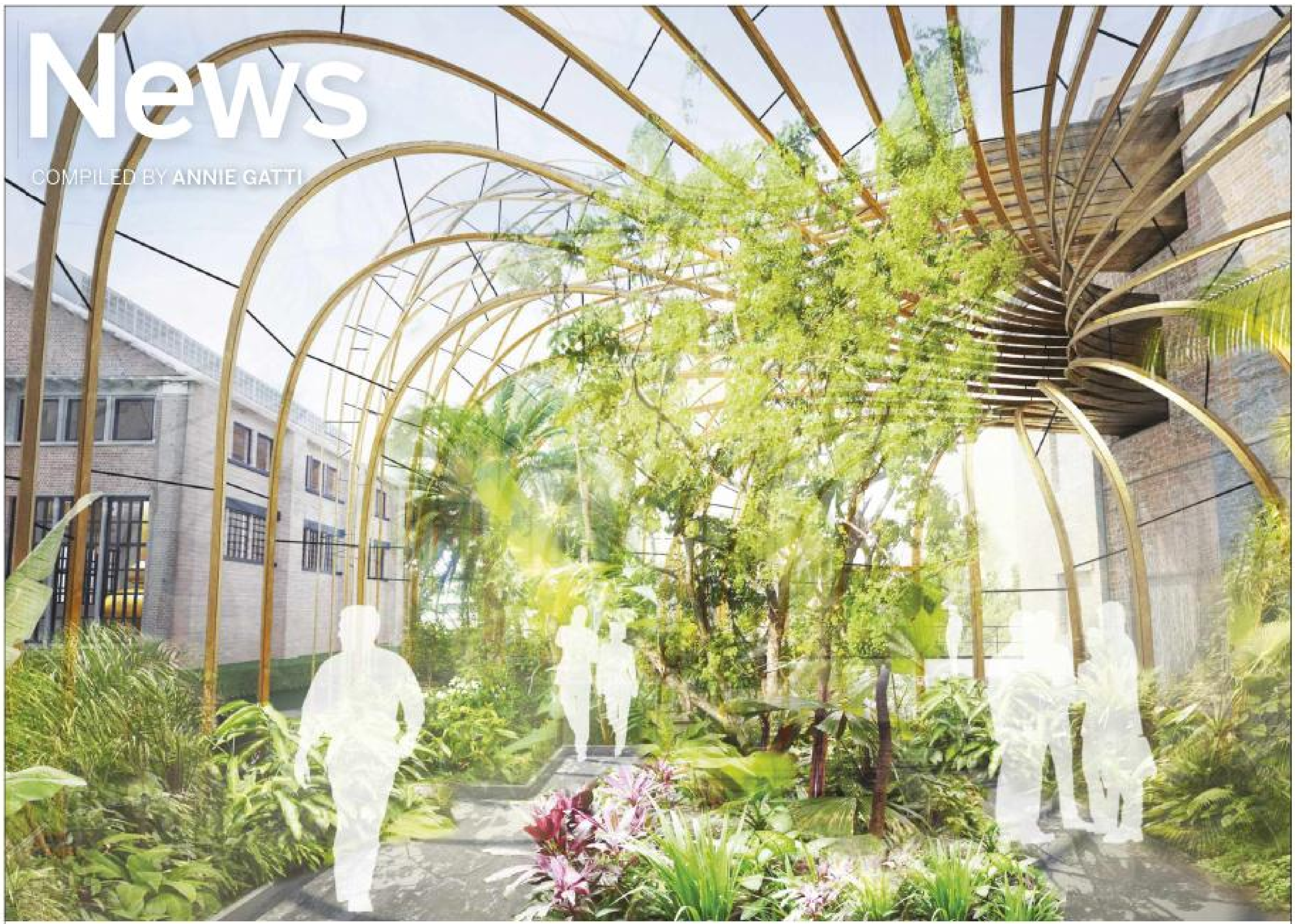
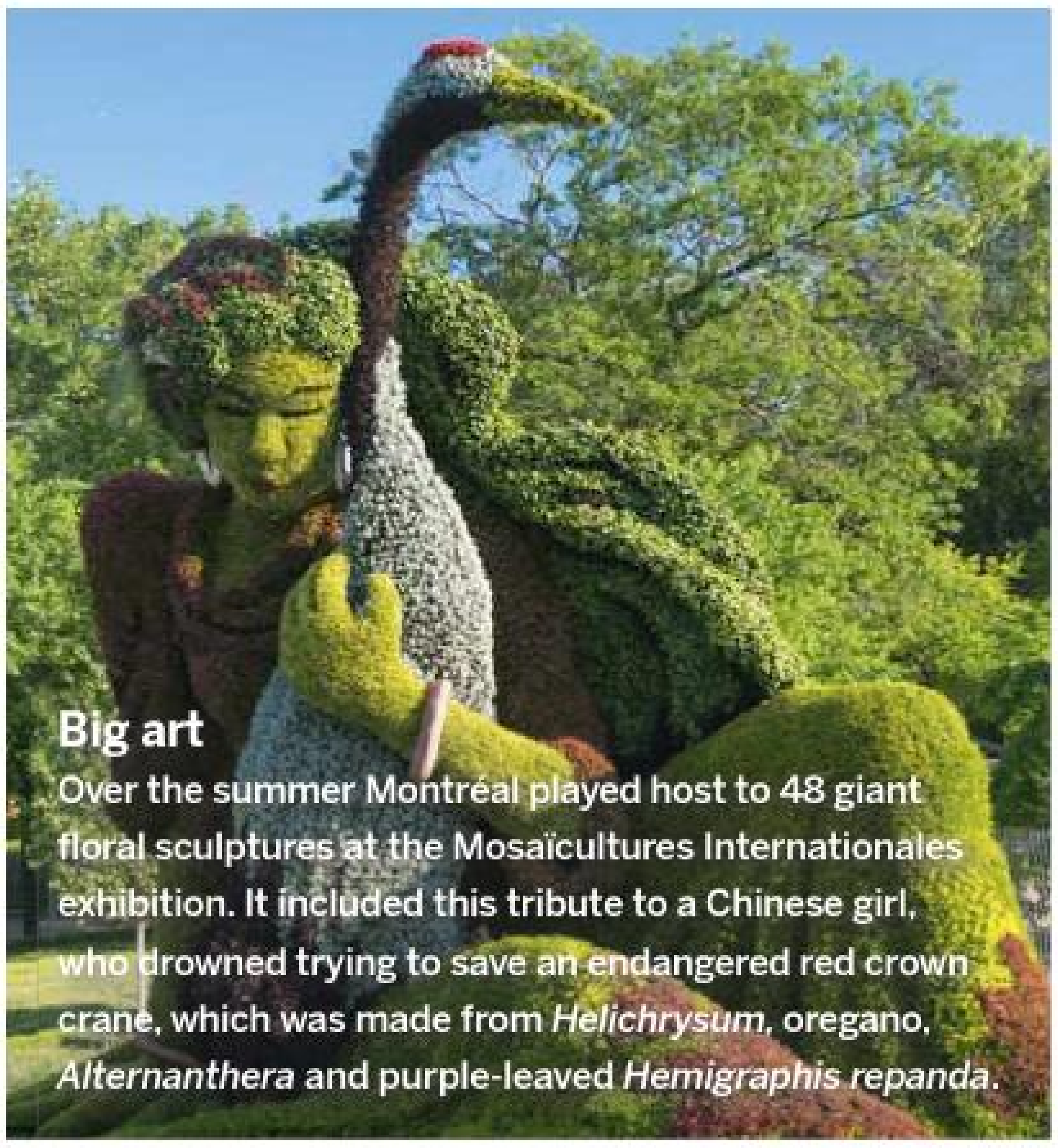
COMPILED BY **ANNIE GATTI**



GLASSHOUSE DESIGN

Bombay spice

Visitors to the new Bombay Sapphire distillery at Laverstoke Mill in Hampshire now have the chance to see for themselves the ten herbs and spices that give gin its distinctive flavour. The plants are housed in two striking curvilinear glasshouses – the larger one, with a roof that soars up to 15m, provides a dry, temperate climate, while the smaller one houses plants that need tropical conditions. The stylish steel and glass structures are a contemporary twist on traditional domed Victorian glasshouses, and are designer Heatherwick Studio's creative solution to the ginmaker's brief for a visitor centre that would showcase its product from botanical to bottle.

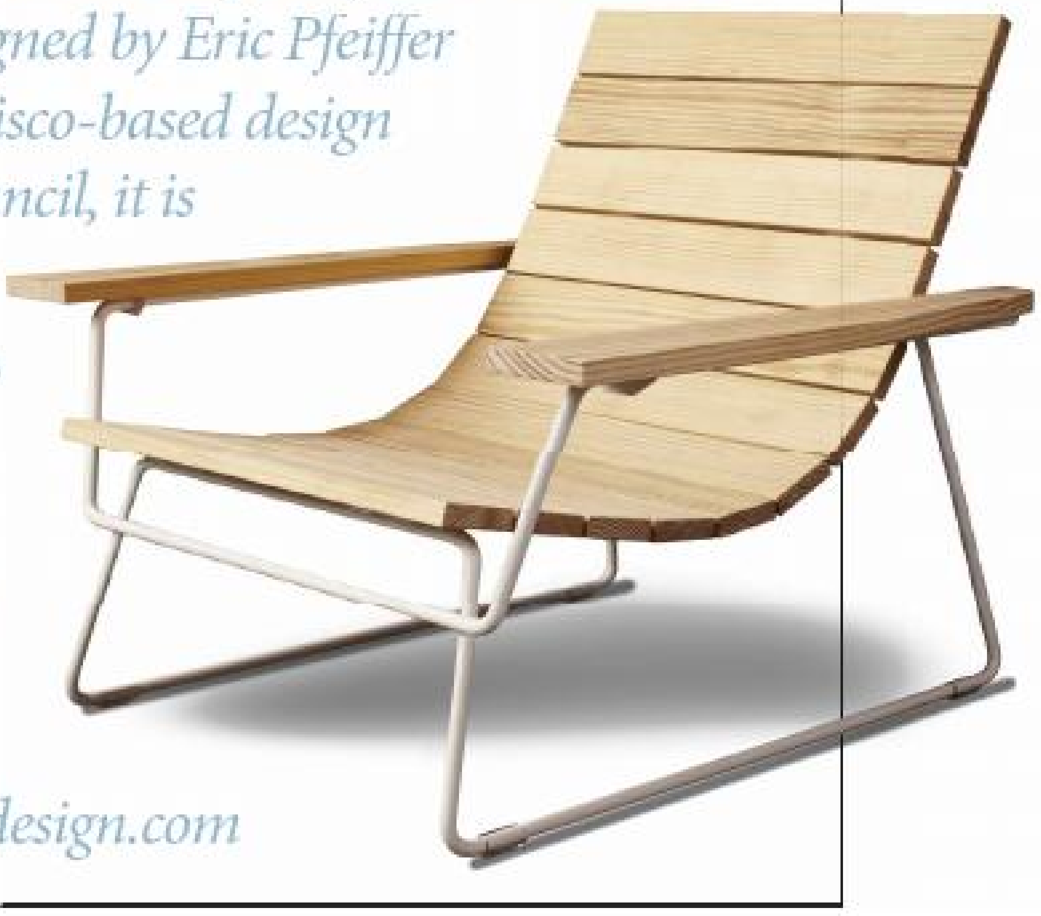


Big art

Over the summer Montréal played host to 48 giant floral sculptures at the Mosaïcultures Internationales exhibition. It included this tribute to a Chinese girl, who drowned trying to save an endangered red crown crane, which was made from *Helichrysum*, oregano, *Alternanthera* and purple-leaved *Hemigraphis repanda*.

CURVE APPEAL

The clean lines of this slatted pine lounger on a frame of white powder-coated steel make it a winner for both contemporary and traditional gardens. Designed by Eric Pfeiffer for San Francisco-based design company Council, it is also available without arms, and comes in three other finishes – black, grey and white. £650; councildesign.com



CITY REGENERATION

Curious links

A strip of land in south London known as the 'Missing Link' is to become a new 'Promenade of Curiosities'. The green pathway will wind its way through a series of permanent and temporary installations, framed by trees and rain gardens, and will link the new US Embassy in Nine Elms to the South Bank. London-based Erect Architecture and J&L Gibbons took inspiration from John Tradescant's English Cabinet of Curiosities for their design, chosen from more than 100 entries in an International Design Competition organised by the RIBA and Vauxhall One.

CLEVER COVER UP

Hide ugly drainage channels with these stylish covers from Lateral Design Studio. The Aquascape collection is available in a range of contemporary and traditional designs in either stainless steel or cast iron. The Locust design, pictured here, is made from recycled cast iron, which ages to a rusty shade. Prices start at £144 per metre for stainless steel designs and £168 per metre for cast iron. Tel 020 8450 2244; lateraldesignstudio.co.uk

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COMPETITION EXHIBITION

Highly inventive

Design schemes shortlisted for the Forgotten Spaces 2013 prize go on display at Somerset House from 4 October to 10 November. Organised by RIBA London, Forgotten Spaces encourages designers to come up with innovative regeneration ideas for redundant spaces in greater London. Among the 26 shortlisted designs is this one from Studio McLeod, which uses structures inspired by cherry pickers' ladders to give residents of the Queen's Park Estate in west London a new view of their city. The winners will be announced at the end of October.

Notebook

- **Oak End, a new nursery run by two garden designers** in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire is offering a gardening service with a difference. You can rent an allotment plot on its large potager and the team will plant and maintain this for you for an annual fee, which entitles you to all of the produce. oakend.co.uk
- **The Gertrude Jekyll-designed gardens** at Tylney Hall Hotel in Hampshire, including Water, Rose, Dutch and Italian gardens, are open for the NGS on 6 October, 10am-4pm. ngs.org.uk
- **Summers Place Auctions of sculpture and design** take place at Billingshurst, West Sussex, this month. Among the items on sale are enamel signs of London streets and landmarks including Buckingham Palace and Horticultural Halls. Viewing 18-21 October; sale 22 October; sealed-bid auctions 23 October. Tel 01403 331331, summersplaceauctions.com
- **Cambridge University is launching a competition** to develop the landscape around its University Library. It's open to professionals and amateurs, and the deadline for entries is 30 November. For details see cambridgelibrarylandscape.com
- **World Peace is the theme of the Gardening World Cup – 2013**, which will be held at the palace Huis Ten Bosch near Nagasaki in Japan, 12-20 October. Now in its fourth year, the design show will have seven show gardens and 20 small gardens. gardeningworldcup.jp/item2013/teaser/Eg/

ERECT ARCHITECTURE/PROJECT TEAM, ERECT ARCHITECTURE IN COLLABORATION WITH J&L GIBBONS

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Waterton Park Hotel

Your prize includes a night at the Waterton Park Hotel (bottom left), exclusive Angie Lewin merchandise, plus a voucher for Angie Lewin's fabric.

WIN Angie Lewin exclusive plus luxury hotel stay

This autumn Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), presents a major solo exhibition by printmaker, painter and designer Angie Lewin. Celebrated for her striking prints of skeletal plant forms set against the sky, Angie Lewin has taken inspiration from YSP's historic, 500-acre landscape to create a series of new prints and watercolours for the exhibition, all of which are available to buy.

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED has partnered with YSP to give you the opportunity to win a trip to the exhibition this November. Enter our competition and our top prize gives one winner: two tickets to the invitation-only *Angie Lewin: A Natural Line* private view on Friday 15 November before spending the night at nearby Waterton Park Hotel, a four-star hotel in a scenic setting of rolling parkland with its own lake and a backdrop of ancient woodland. The winner will also enjoy a selection of Angie Lewin merchandise worth £50, designed exclusively to accompany the show and a £200 voucher to spend on Angie Lewin fabric from her print studio St Jude's.

In addition there are also 25 runner-up prizes of one ticket each to the private view.

***Angie Lewin: A Natural Line* runs from 16 November 2013 until 23 February 2014. For more details about the exhibition go to ysp.org.uk. Tel 01924 832631. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield, Yorkshire WF4 4LG.**

How to enter

For your chance to win, please answer the following question:

When did Yorkshire Sculpture Park open to the public?

ENTER BY POST

Send a postcard with your answer, along with your name, address, postcode and contact details to:

Gardens Illustrated 202/YSP,
PO Box 501, Leicester
LE94 0AA

ENTER ONLINE

gardensillustrated.com

CLOSING DATE

25 October 2013

Terms and Conditions: 1 The promoter is Immediate Media Company Bristol Ltd. **2** Entrants must be aged 18 years or older, excluding the promoter's employees. **3** The closing date for all entries is 23.59 GMT on 25 October 2013. **4** By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. **5.** The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy). **6** Only one entry per person allowed. **7** Winning entries will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. **8** First prize is two tickets to the YSP Angie Lewin private view, a double/twin room, bed and breakfast at Waterton Park Hotel, Walton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF2 6PW for 15 November 2013, plus Angie Lewin voucher and merchandise. **9** All other meals and hotel expenditure not included. **10** The £200 voucher can be used in full or part payment for any products in the Angie Lewin fabric range from St Jude's. No change will be given in cash but any value remaining on the voucher will be shown on the till receipt and can be used in full or part payment for future purchases with St Jude's. Where the voucher holder wishes to use the voucher to buy products with a value higher than the value on the voucher, he/she will be required to pay the difference. The value on the voucher cannot be exchanged for cash or refunded. Where St Jude's agrees to provide a refund for products purchased using the voucher, the amount of the purchase price paid using that voucher will be reimbursed by way of a credit note for use at St Jude's. Voucher valid for 365 days after issue. **11** The 25 runners up will receive one ticket each for the private view on 15 November 2013. **12** Travel to YSP and Waterton Park Hotel and other expenses are not included. **13** The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winners will be notified by email or post by 31 October 2013. **14** There is no cash alternative and prizes are not transferable. Each prize must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute a prize with one of the same or greater value. **15** For details of winners send an SAE to Immediate Media Company Bristol, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN within two months of the closing date. **16** No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed or fraudulent entries. **17** This promotion is subject to the laws of England. By entering, you undertake that you are not contravening any laws local to you. **18** Immediate Media Company Limited (publishers of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED) would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Company Group. Please write 'Do not contact Immediate Media Co Ltd' if you would prefer not to receive these. GARDENS ILLUSTRATED would like to keep you informed of newsletters, special offers and other promotions. Please write your email address and mobile number on your entry if you would like to receive these. You may unsubscribe from these at any time. **19** YSP would like to keep you informed by email, post or telephone of their events and promotions. Please write 'Do not Contact YSP' on your entry if you would prefer not to receive these.

BARRY MORGAN / ALAMY

Green roofs

Creating a green roof is easier than you think and will transform an old tool shed, bike store or summer house into an enviable garden feature

WORDS **ANNIE GUILFOYLE**

Annie Guilfoyle is Director of Garden Design at KLC School of Design. She is also Garden Course Co-ordinator at West Dean College and runs her own garden design studio.

There is nothing new about green or 'living' roofs; in fact we can trace their use back to ancient times. In recent years they have become more widely used, not only on commercial buildings but also increasingly on residential projects.

The benefits of a green roof are numerous – from making buildings more energy efficient by improving insulation, to increasing biodiversity and providing valuable wildlife habitats in our cities. They also reduce water runoff and help with noise insulation. In fact studies are now being carried out on the psychological effects they have on the people who live and work in buildings with green roofs.

If you are planning a new build or even an extension it could be the perfect opportunity to incorporate a green roof into the design. It may be more complicated if you are adapting an existing roof. Whichever route you take it is essential to have a structural engineer on board at the planning stage, to advise you on load bearing and drainage. These are two of the most important considerations and it is really not advisable to proceed without seeking professional advice. Many companies offer a supply-and-build service, but before selecting one it is essential you research them thoroughly and if possible try to visit some of their recent projects. You need to be sure the design complies with building regulations and that the roof will be structurally stable and watertight.

Smaller scale projects

Whenever possible I will use a green roof to beautify dreary structures, such as bin stores, logs stores, bike shelters, tool sheds or even a dog kennel or bird table. A shed roof covered with plants looks so much better when viewed from above. Even on these smaller projects you need to ensure that the structure has adequate strength to support the roof when planted and that the drainage is sufficient.

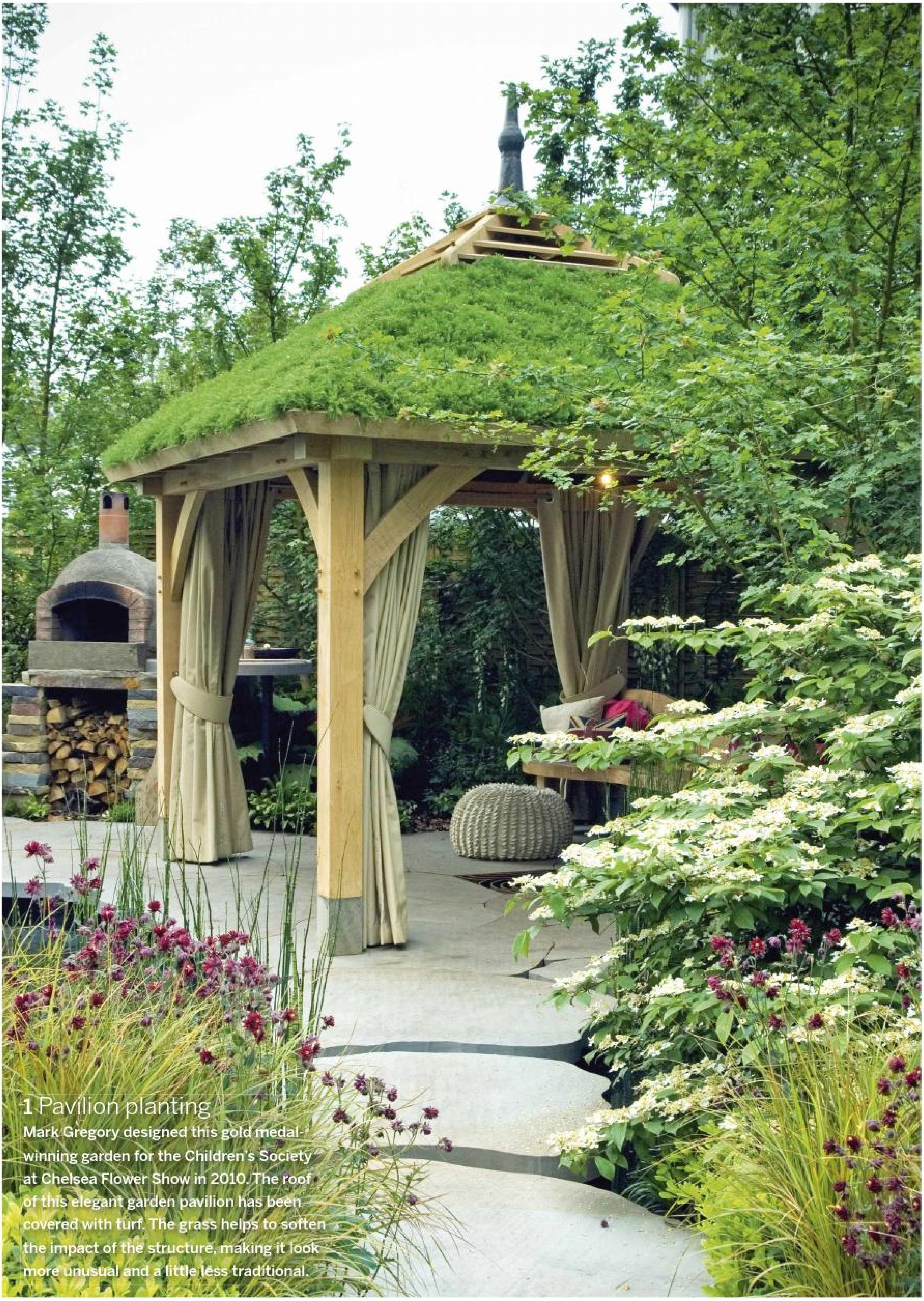
When it comes to the plant selection don't limit yourself to using just sedum matting, when there are so many other possibilities. As long as the plants suit the location and have the correct depth of growing medium you can be really creative. Herbs or wildflowers work well on top of a south-facing bike store and the roof of a shady tool shed could be transformed with a mixture of evergreen ferns or mosses. For a coastal garden why not try a carpet of *Armeria*, *Thymus* and *Silene uniflora* – perfect cover for a log store. So, if you are thinking of greening your roof, the sky – or the roof at least – is the limit.

NEXT MONTH How to make a small garden look bigger

Green-roof essentials

Your green-roof design will vary depending on the type of roof you want to create and the plants you use – but here are the general components of a green roof working from the roof upwards:

- Waterproof membrane preventing any water from penetrating the roof.
- Root barrier protecting the waterproof membrane from root penetration.
- Drainage layer.
- Filter mat – preventing the growing medium from clogging up the drainage.
- Growing medium.
- Planting.



1 Pavilion planting

Mark Gregory designed this gold medal-winning garden for the Children's Society at Chelsea Flower Show in 2010. The roof of this elegant garden pavilion has been covered with turf. The grass helps to soften the impact of the structure, making it look more unusual and a little less traditional.

MARCUS HARPUR/ GAP PHOTOS; DESIGN MARK GREGORY

2 Pooch palace

You can really have fun being creative with green roofs, so why not consider using them on the smaller structures in the garden? This designer dog kennel featured in Jo Thompson's 2012 Chelsea garden 'A celebration of caravanning'. It even has a tiny drainpipe taking rain water off the roof.

3 Old sheds

Rickety old tool sheds can be transformed and given a new lease of life with the addition of a green roof. Some remedial work may be required first to ensure the structure is strong enough to support the planting.

4 Extreme green

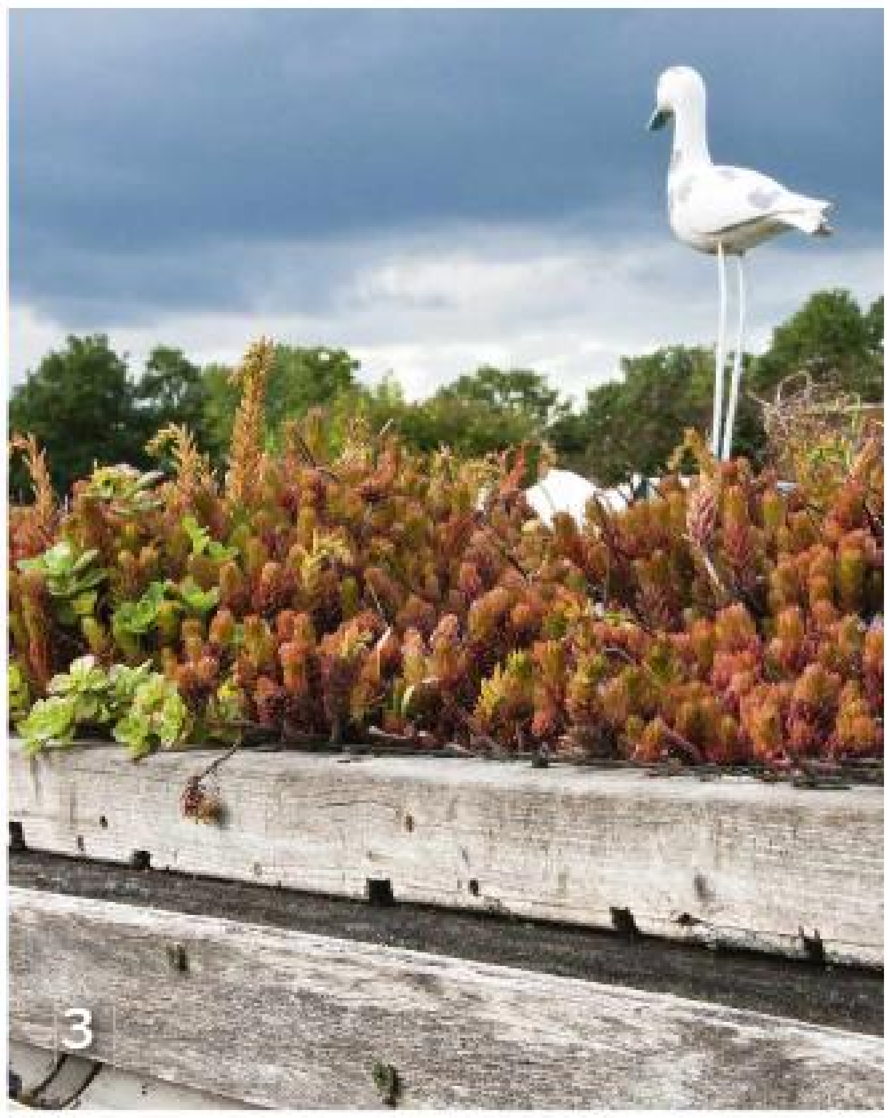
This adventurous planting scheme covers an entire house in north London transforming it into a Mexican hillside. There are agaves, aloes and cacti combined with herbs, bulbs and grasses on this sloping scree roof. A ladder at the side of the house provides access for regular maintenance.

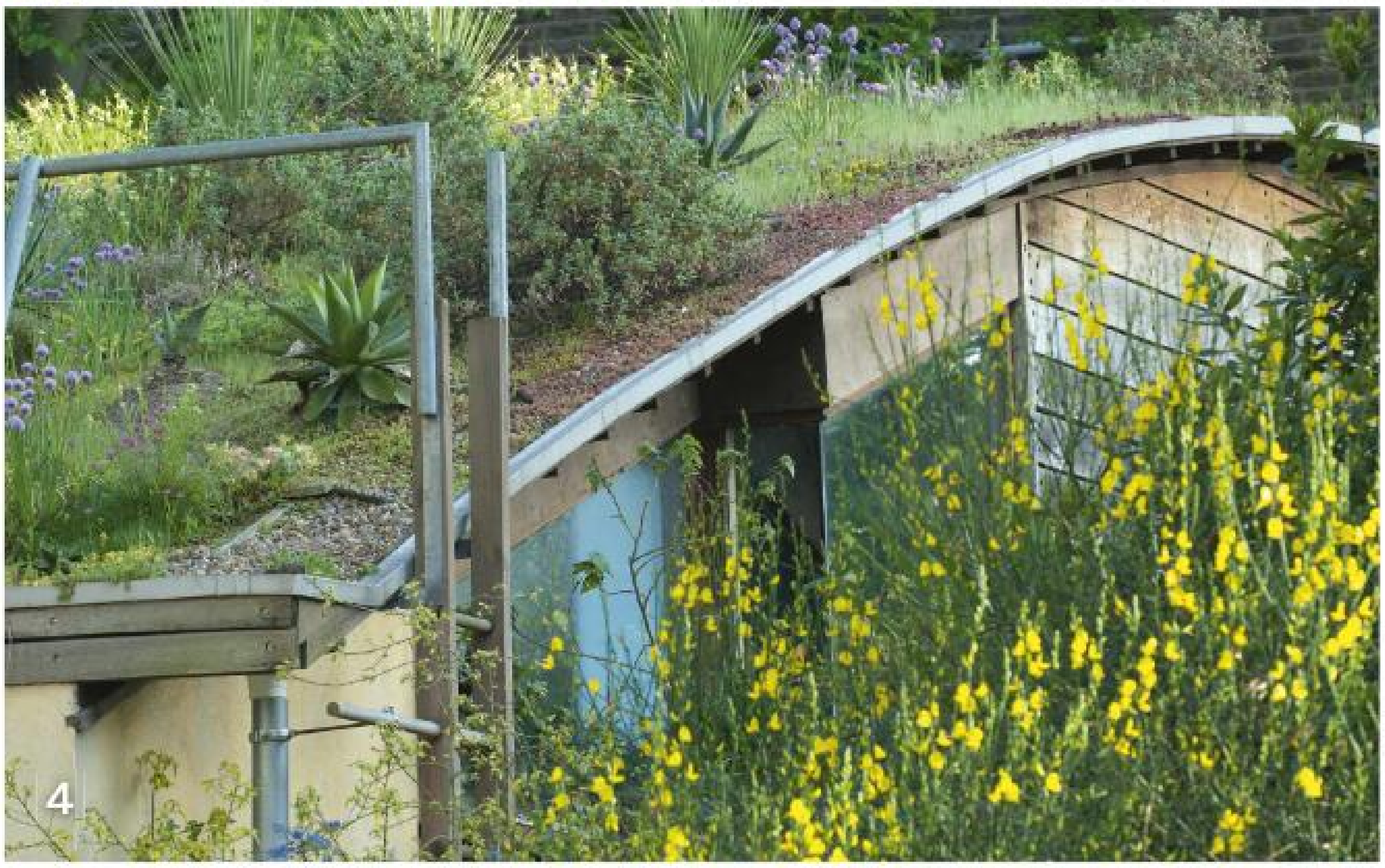
5 Perennials and grasses

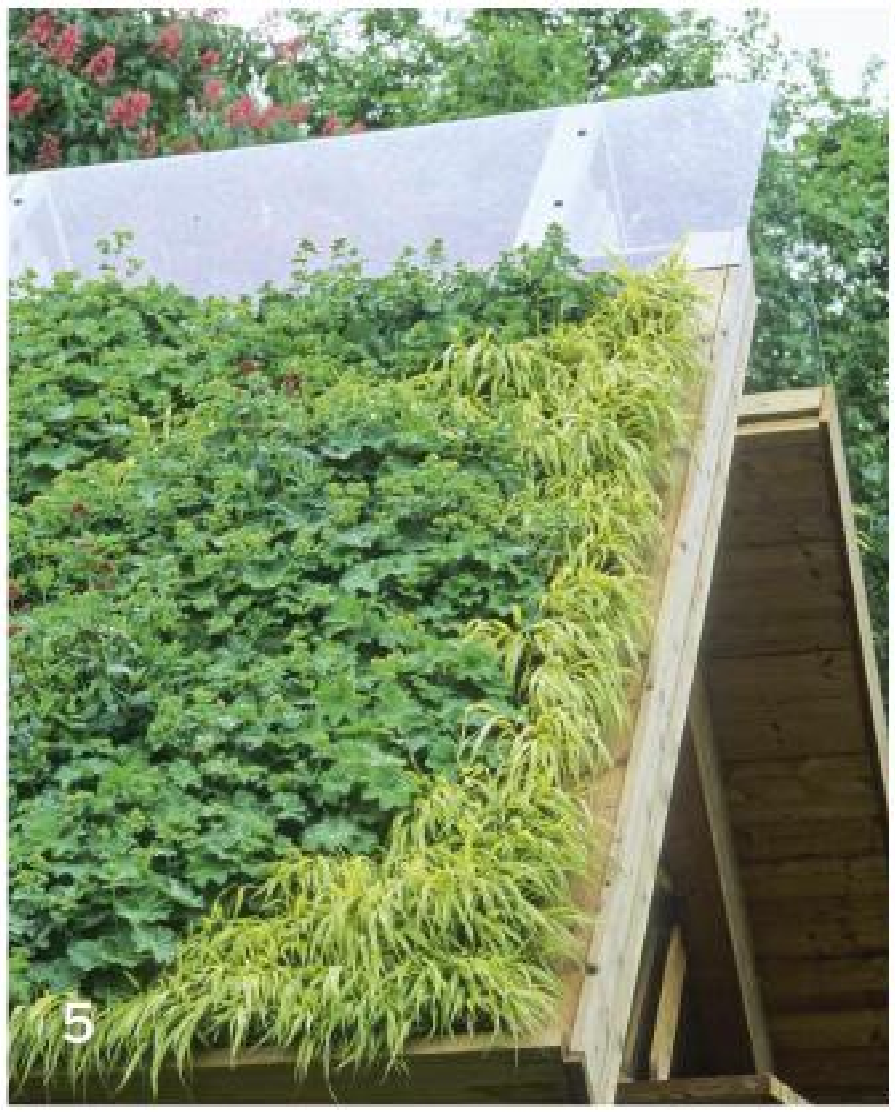
It is possible to use a wide range of perennials and grasses on green roofs, as shown here with *Alchemilla mollis* and *Hakonechloa*. However, you do need to consider how the plants will look during the winter months and whether or not you want it to look green all year round.

6 Bijou bee hotel

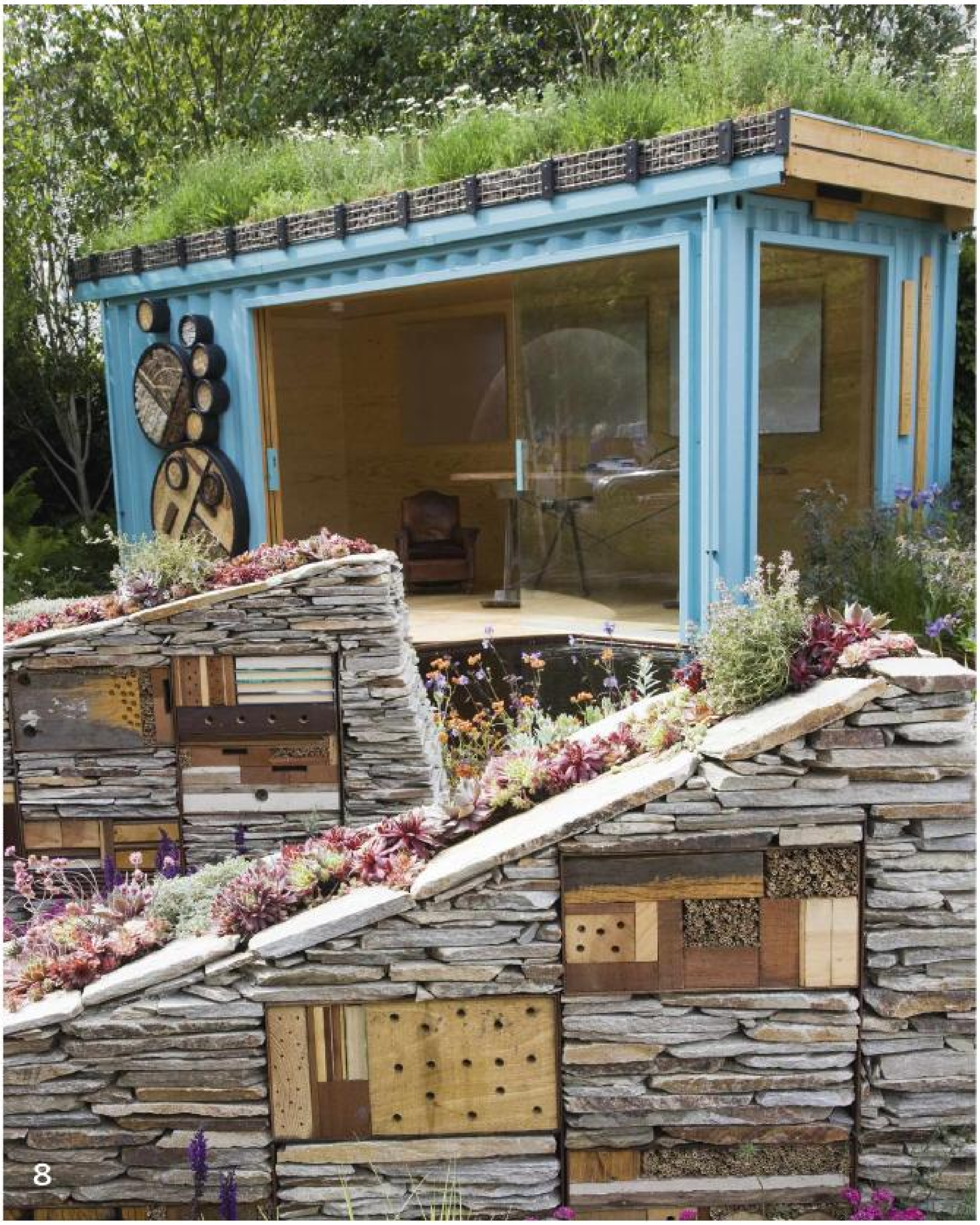
Small is beautiful and there is no limit to how small you can go. This bee and insect 'hotel' has a tiny green roof, perfect for a small garden or balcony. Ensure you incorporate adequate drainage into the design, no matter how small it is.







2 LIZ EDDISON/ THE GARDEN COLLECTION, DESIGN: JO THOMPSON; 3 & 4 JACQUI HURST; 5 JERRY HARPUR/ GAP PHOTOS, DESIGN: JEFF DUTT; 6 MARIANNE MAJERUS, DESIGN: CHARLOTTE MURRELL WILD IN THE CITY, RHS HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW 2011



7 MARK BOLTON / GAP PHOTOS 8 SUZIE GIBBONS/GAP PHOTOS DESIGN NIGEL DUNNETT AND THE LANDSCAPE AGENCY

7 Maintenance issues

Use low-maintenance plants, especially if roof access is limited. This shed roof is planted with several different sedums that require very little maintenance. However, the honeysuckle growing around the eaves will need regular pruning to stop it covering the roof and swamping the plants.

8 New approaches

Nigel Dunnett never fails to offer innovative ideas for incorporating green roofs into a garden. Here an old shipping container has been transformed into a home office and the roof is planted up with grasses and perennials. Even the dry-stone walls have strips of sedum along the top.

Books for further reading

Here are some excellent books to help with your research:

• *Small Green Roofs – Low-Tech Options for Greener Living*
by Nigel Dunnett, Dusty Gedge, John Little and Edmund C Snodgrass
Timber Press, £16.99
ISBN 978-1604690590
For smaller projects, this book is so inspirational.

• *Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*
by Nigel Dunnett and Noël Kingsbury
Timber Press, £25
ISBN 978-0881929119
Great for technical information.

• *The Green Roof Manual*
By Edmund C Snodgrass and Linda McIntyre
Timber Press, £25
ISBN 978-1604690491
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Downtools

Book reviews, reader offers, letters and crossword

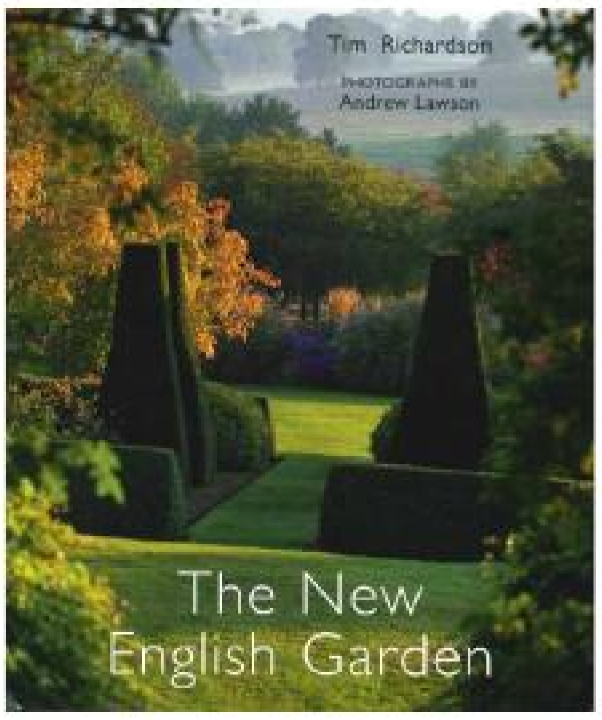
Piet Oudolf's clump-based planting at Scampston Hall is examined in Tim Richardson's *The New English Garden*, which is reviewed overleaf

JANE SEBIRE

Book reviews

THE NEW ENGLISH GARDEN

by Tim Richardson,
photographs by Andrew Lawson
Frances Lincoln, £40
ISBN 978-0711232709



There are those among us who style a certain class of large, glossy, lavishly produced garden book as 'Garden Porn'. In that case, I confess myself an addict, and feel it only fair to warn you that this doorstep of a book, so heavy, so sumptuously made, so ravishingly illustrated, is without wishing to stretch the analogy too far, pretty X-rated stuff.

But this is not simply a book of sumptuous pictures. It is also intelligent, thought-provoking and occasionally contentious, which is just what you'd expect from Tim Richardson, whose pacy and incisive essays accompany richly atmospheric photographs by Andrew Lawson, Rachel Warne and Jane Sebire.

Richardson has selected 25 gardens to represent 'the new English garden' – gardens made or remade over the past decade that seem to him to represent the best of current garden-making in Britain.

Some we would all agree on – Great Dixter, Trentham, Wildside, or the glorious 'mingled' borders of Packwood House. But he also presents some intriguing lesser known gardens – Angel Field in Liverpool, the elegant Lynn Garden at Ascott, even the vertical garden that is the Living Wall at London's Athenaeum Hotel.

ANDREW LAWSON

Keith Wiley's naturalistic theme at Wildside is, in Tim's view, richer than anything in the wild.

He charts the development of New Perennial planting, from the pioneering Bury Court (now, as he observes, looking somewhat dated), to the magisterially orchestrated spaces of Tom Stuart-Smith's Mount St John or Christopher Bradley-Hole's Crockmore House; quite distinct, he argues, from the naturalistic plant communities of Keith Wiley's Wildside, or the sustainable approach of Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough of Sheffield University. But it's good to be reminded that such planting is not ubiquitous, and in some gardens, redundant, as in Plaz Metaxu.

Richardson is the ideal commentator – funny, passionate (as when galloping to the aid of Roy Strong); and not afraid to criticise – grumbling at Scampston's Mount, or politely suggesting to the Prince of Wales that his garden is too busy. And he has a delicious turn of phrase: a hot border is not just 'a riot of colour', but 'helping the police with its enquiries'.

Any caveats? Beautiful photographs are occasionally ill-served by careless cropping. And then there's the price tag – big, beautiful books don't come cheap – but if you are serious about contemporary English gardens, this is a book you cannot do without.

Ambra Edwards is a writer specialising in gardens.

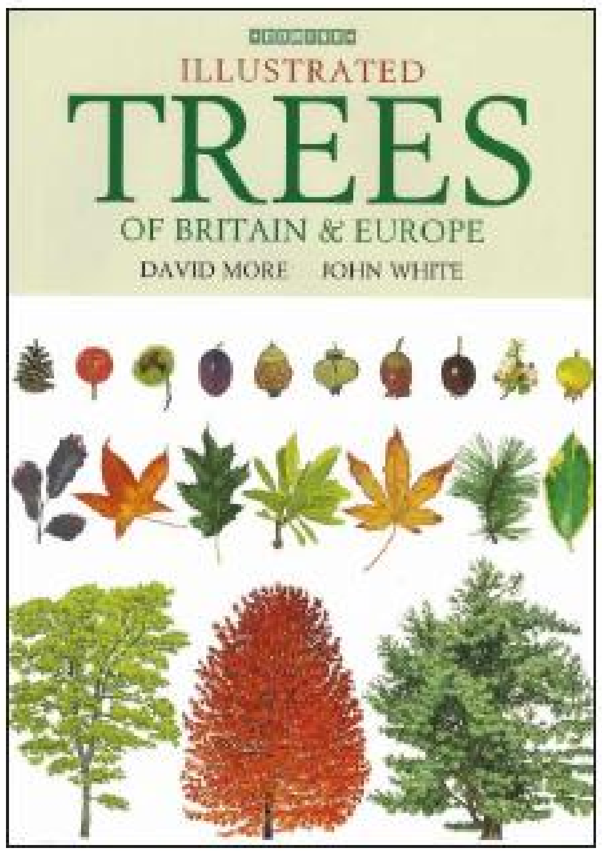
book offer

RRP £40. **Reader offer price ££37**, including p&p.

ILLUSTRATED TREES OF BRITAIN & EUROPE

by David More and John White

Bloomsbury, £35. ISBN 978-1408123669



It's now a decade since this outstanding book first appeared and it remains the most authoritative, most beautifully illustrated guide to trees, now made even more comprehensive with the addition of 54 species most often encountered in the Mediterranean region, bringing the grand total of species and cultivars covered to almost 2,000. This revised edition will delight a new generation of tree enthusiasts, while those who already own the first edition and are debating whether the addition of species from warmer climates and a visual key to leaf shapes justifies the cost of upgrading, will notice improvements in the text and plates, including illustrations of reproductive structures for male and female ginkgo and a revised plate for service trees.

David More's meticulous illustrations, a labour of love that involved searching out and painting individual trees so as to combine character with botanical accuracy, complement John White's text, which is laced with engaging anecdotal information and helpful cultivation advice born of a lifetime of first-hand experience, making this a source of reference to read in depth, as well as to admire.

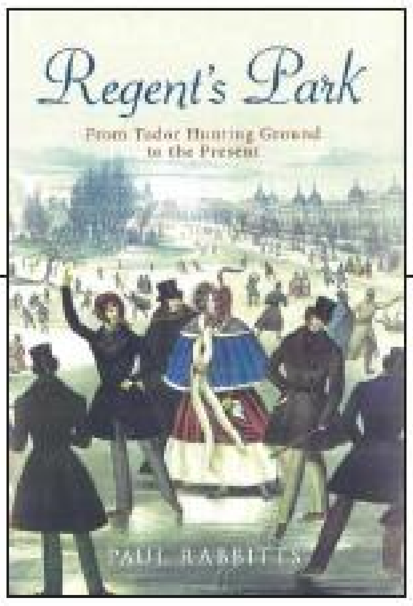
Weighing in at five and a half pounds, *Illustrated Trees* is a book to be enjoyed in an armchair rather than carried into the field. However, since it was first published the rapid development of small, easy-to-use digital cameras has meant that taking photographs to the book rather than taking the book to the tree has narrowed the gap between portable field guide and the library shelf reference book.

The frontispiece, a magnificent painting of a hedgerow English elm in its prime, will bring a sigh of regret to tree lovers who are old enough to remember how these stately trees once graced our landscape. It's a stark reminder of the devastation that tree diseases cause and as I turned the pages I was struck by the many blank spaces that would be left in this book if the Pandora's box of new tree diseases run their course. It was a reminder of the beauty we often take for granted and of what we stand to lose.

Dr Phil Gates is a Guardian *Country Diarist and former senior lecturer in botany at Durham University.*

book offer

RRP £35. **Reader offer price £32.50**, including p&p.



REGENT'S PARK: FROM TUDOR HUNTING GROUND TO THE PRESENT

by Paul Rabbitts

Amberley Publishing, £20

ISBN 978-1-4456-1024-5

It is easy to forget that London's urban explosion was a 20th-century phenomenon. In 1792, for example, market gardens occupied 8,790 acres within a ten-mile radius of the city. Yet the six Royal Parks, now so cherished as public green spaces, have been a feature of the city since the 16th century. Paul Rabbitts's scholarly work tells the tale of one of these, Regent's Park, from medieval manor to its contemporary role as an urban green lung. Much emphasis is placed on the Park's creation from 1811 by the Prince Regent with John Nash, the works of Decimus Burton and later, William Andrews Nesfield in the 1860s and '70s. What makes the story so much more interesting is how the Park's evolution is contextualised within the evolution of London itself, and the wider Parks Movement of the 19th century. The book also brings the story up-to-date, examining the Park's decline, revival and its management today. As a garden historian, but not a Londoner, I found Regent's Park a fascinating read and hope Mr Rabbitts will do the same for the other Royal Parks.

Toby Musgrave is a garden historian and author.

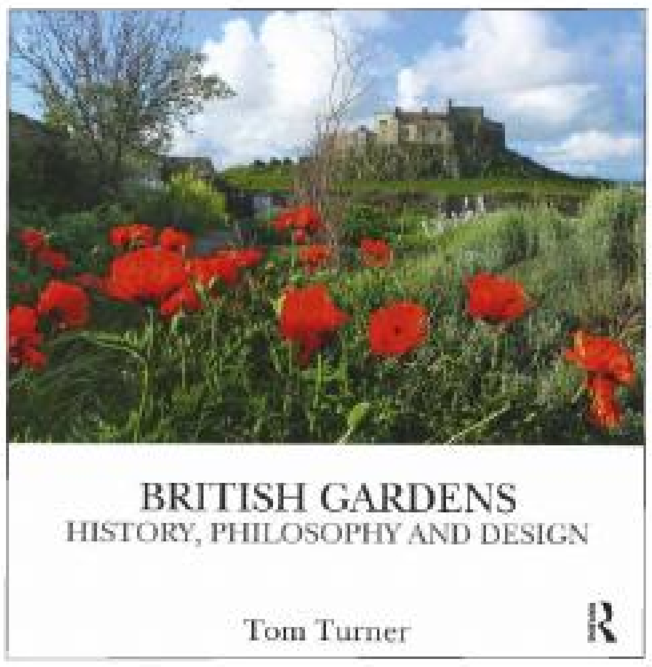
book offer

RRP £20. **Reader offer price £18**, including p&p.

Book reviews

BRITISH GARDENS: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND DESIGN

by Tom Turner
Routledge, £35
ISBN 978-0415518789



The British climate always gives us plenty to moan about, but it may also help explain why we have become possibly 'the world's most enthusiastic gardeners'. So argues garden historian and landscape architect Tom Turner in this scholarly history of design in gardens and landscapes in Britain.

Our enthusiasm he puts down both to climate, which is particularly suited to gardening, and to the influx of ideas and plants that he charts through the centuries. As in his two previous books, *Asian Gardens* and *European Gardens*, Turner uses a combination of plans, photographs, drawings and paintings to help you visualise the development of ideas.

Like so much else we often think of as British, gardening was brought here by the Romans, but this chronological study goes much further back to the early Neolithic settlements and landforms, and suffers slightly from photographs that are dark and used too small.

The first recognisable gardens are the reconstructed Roman gardens, such as Fishbourne (wrongly planted, in Turner's view, with clipped hedges and mown grass). The medieval garden introduces the herbarium: a small garden filled with flowers, aromatic herbs and turf. This is a period when many of our recognisable garden features, such as enclosed gardens, orchards, arbours, bowers, trellises and wattle fencing (used around a lady's herber for shelter and privacy, and in the vegetable garden to keep hens out), also arrived.

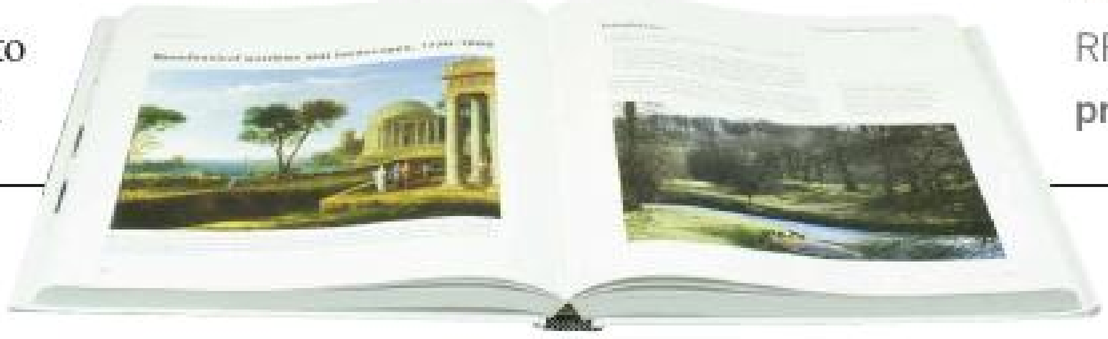
Any gardeners who have tried to make small wildflower patches will sympathise with their medieval counterparts who had to replace the turves they had cut from meadow land for their 'flowery meads' every three to five years.

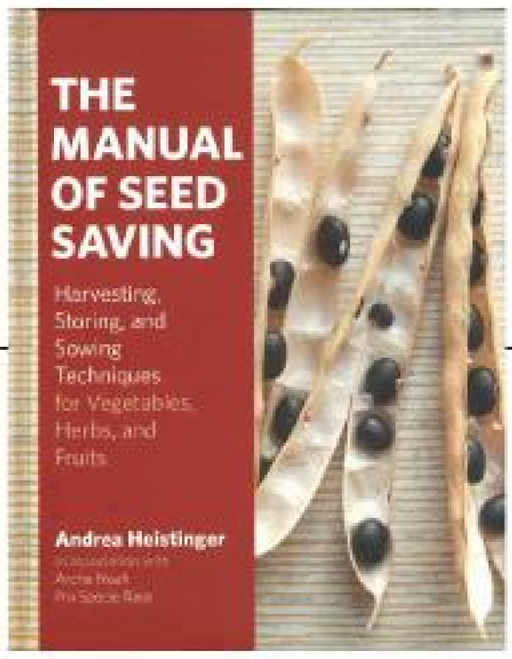
The book picks up pace with the gardens of the Renaissance when Italy – both Classical and contemporary – became a source of inspiration as well as technical knowledge, and British gardens started to become outward looking in their style. From here on a generous use of line drawings, plans and paintings enlivens the text.

Terminology is a problem in the study of garden history and design – this reader got particularly bogged down in those used to describe modern gardens. Luckily, Turner sets them all out in the Appendix, which you would be wise to read before you start on the main text.

The book offers plenty of visual and textual material for students of garden design, but for the general reader, what's really interesting is the ebb and flow of design features through the centuries and for this reason alone I'd recommend you read the book chronologically, rather than dipping in and out.

Annie Gatti is a writer and former editor of the Garden Design Journal.




THE MANUAL OF SEED SAVING
Harvesting, Storing, and Sowing Techniques for Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruits
Andrea Heistinger

THE MANUAL OF SEED SAVING

by Andrea Heistinger
Timber Press, £25
ISBN 978-1604693829

Ten years ago, it would have been hard to imagine that home seed saving would have become the phenomenon it is. There have been numerous books in the past couple of years and this new addition to the genre, translated from German, has already sold 10,000 copies in Austria and Germany.

This is a comprehensive tome, taking you first through the whys of plant breeding – geopolitics, local knowledge, maintaining and creating diversity and economics – before moving on to the hows. It includes an excellent chapter on 'seed gardening' everything from pollination, to maintaining trueness of type and how to ripen seed in damp climates.

Each crop is covered with its own entry; this includes specifics on how to grow, harvest and save seeds, rouging (removing seedlings not true to type) and some delightful regional recipes and stories around specific heritage varieties.

Although a heavyweight take on the subject, it has the lightest of touches; strong on detail, but not dauntingly so. Whether you've never saved seeds, only dabbled or you save on a large scale, you're sure to find something of interest.

Alys Fowler is a Kew-trained gardener, author and TV presenter.

book offer

RRP £25 **Reader offer price £22.50**, including p&p.

LILY

by Marcia Reiss, Reaktion Books, £16
ISBN 978-1780230931

PINE

by Laura Mason, Reaktion Books, £16
ISBN 978-1780231013

Lily
Marcia Reiss
Pine
Laura Mason

Recently, I sat down with the editor of this magazine to a meal, the first course of which was lily bulb raclette (*Lilium auratum* to be precise). We were in Japan and the meal was a tasty reminder that there is often more to familiar plants than being specimens in our gardens. Plants can be sources of food and medicine, play a role in folklore and myth, be objects of veneration or suspicion, and inspiration for art and song. Their modern role as garden plants, may, in other words, only be the tip of an iceberg in a long history.

It is the plant-human relationship that this series of books sets out to explore. Each title covers a number of themes that introduce us to its cultural role. *Pine* starts with a brief outline of many species of *Pinus*, whereas *Lily* charts a more discursive path, outlining the range of plants that are dubbed 'lily' beyond the genus *Lilium*. It then goes on to look at the rather contradictory image of the flower in human history: as images of purity, of sexuality and of death. The role of lilies in Oriental cuisine is covered, and there are even instructions on how to prepare daylily buds for eating.

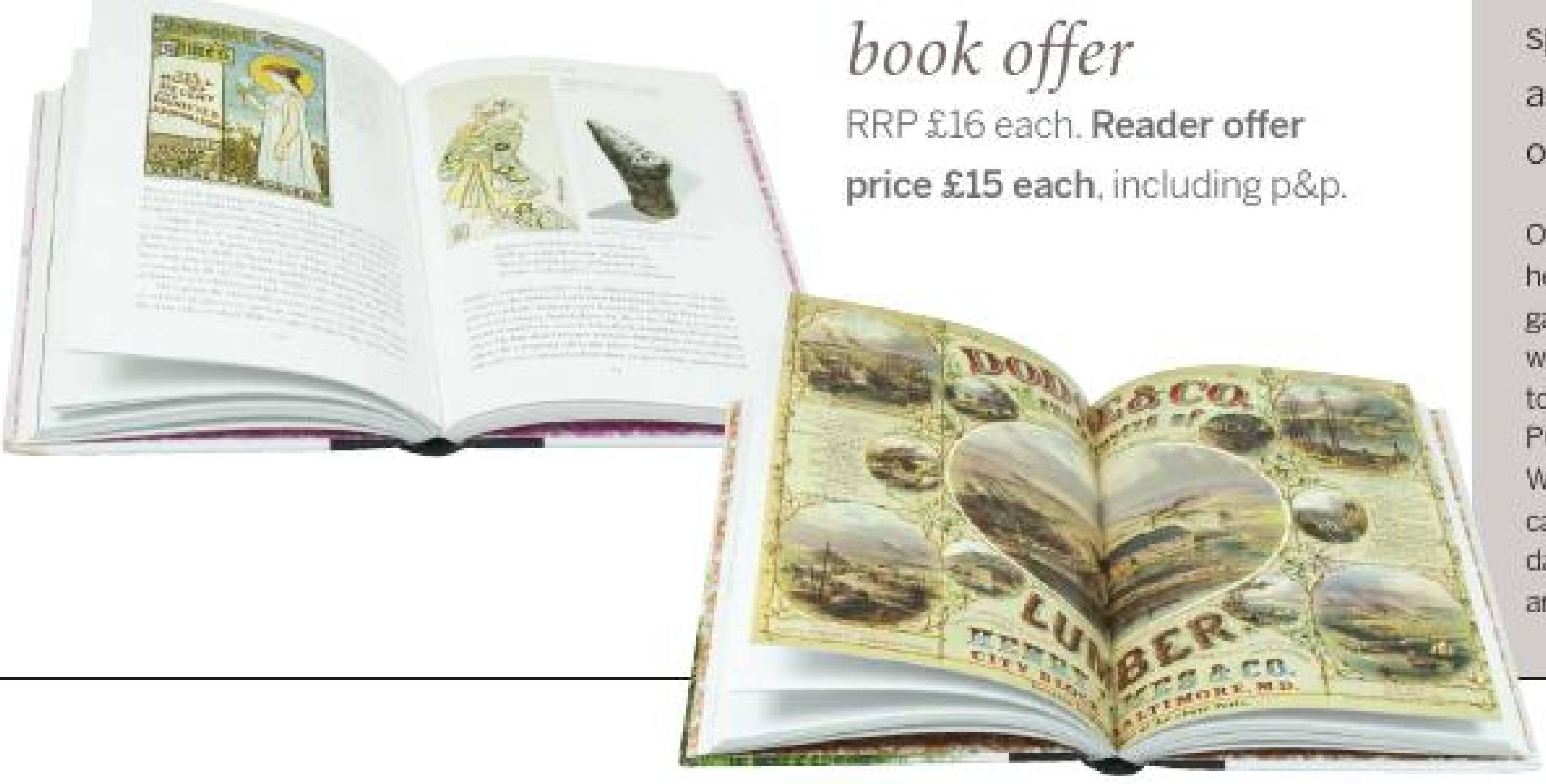
Pine is more focussed on the grittily economic value of its subject: timber, pitch and turpentine, but looks also at how the name 'pine' came to be applied and refined by early botanists. The tree's place in myth is covered, with an emphasis on the classical world, and in art, particularly in China and Japan, where gnarled pines in dramatic landscapes seem to occupy a core place in the culture.

Lily and *Pine* are beautifully produced, with an old-fashioned and wonderfully solid feel to them; they are well illustrated with material from a very wide range of sources, and bound at a higher quality than the general run of hardback books, especially given the modest price. I can see them becoming collectors' items.

Noël Kingsbury is a writer and plantsman.

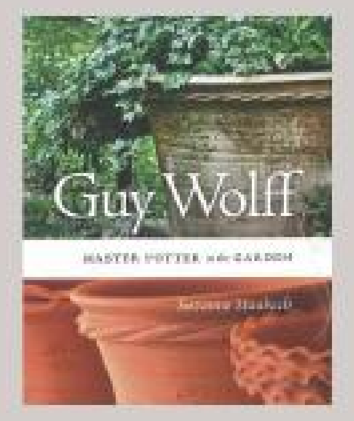
book offer

RRP £16 each. **Reader offer price £15 each**, including p&p.

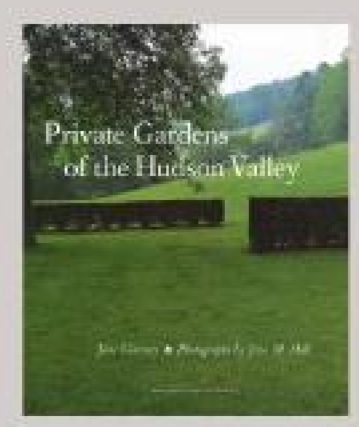


Other recently released books for gardeners

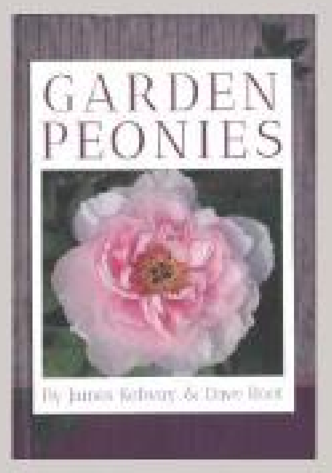
THE GREEN FLORILEGIUM
Introduced by Hanne Kolind Poulsen. Preste, £90
978-3791352787
All 178 plates of Hans Simon Holtzbecker's detailed flower portraits, restored to their original 17th-century colours.



GUY WOLFF: MASTER POTTER IN THE GARDEN
by Suzanne Staubach
University Press of New England, £16.06
978-1611683660
A biography of the modern American master potter.



PRIVATE GARDENS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY
by Jane Garmey
The Monacelli Press, £55
978-1580933483
Beautiful images of 26 private gardens in New York State's Hudson Valley.



GARDEN PEONIES
by James Kelway & Dave Root
Picts Hill Publishing, £14.99
978-1904496083
James Kelway's 1952 guide to peonies, updated by Kelways' nurseryman Dave Root.

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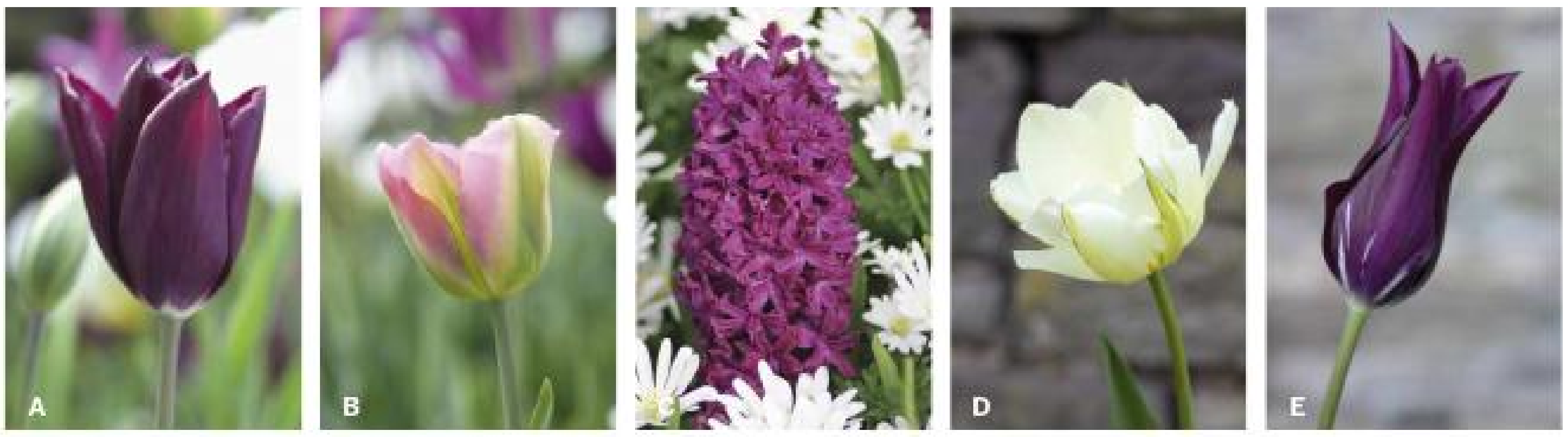
Reader offers

Offer one

Save on exclusive bulb collections from Peter Nyssen

Inspired by the planting schemes from Arne Maynard (see page 58), bulb specialist Peter Nyssen has put together four collections for GARDENS ILLUSTRATED readers at a special price. Each collection is based on the choice of colours chosen by Arne and includes a mix of colour-themed tulips along with a toning hyacinth. Plant the bulbs this autumn for a spring display next year.

INSPIRED BY FLUSHED WITH GREEN SELECTION Offer price £15.55



- **A** Tulip 'Havran' x 10
- **B** Tulip 'Greenland' x 10
- **C** Hyacinth 'Woodstock' x 5
- **D** Tulip 'Exotic Emperor' x 10
- **E** Tulip 'Burgundy' x 10

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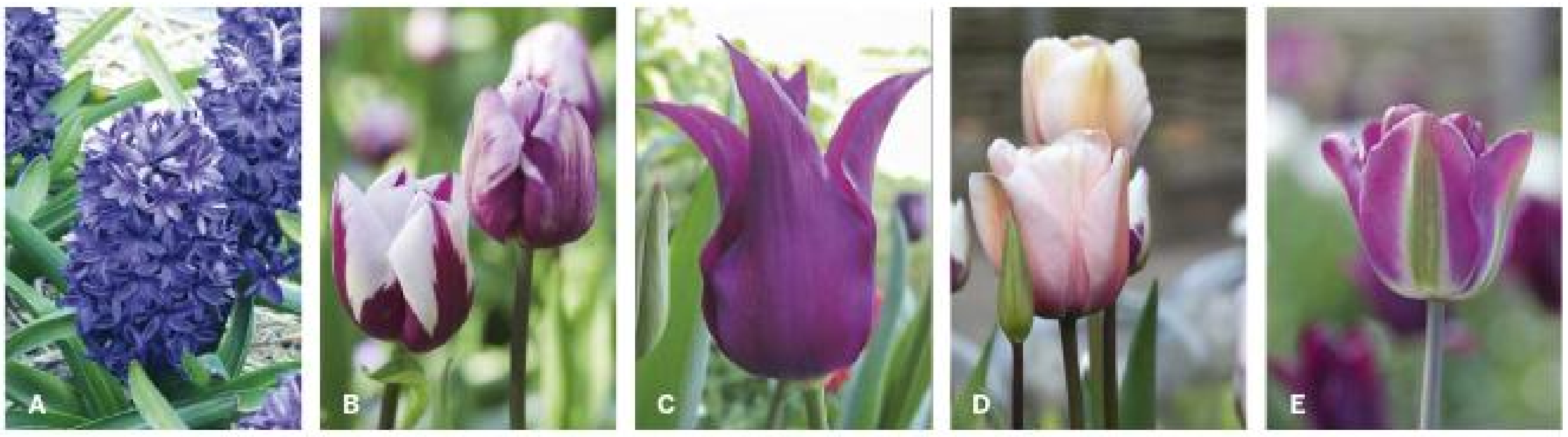

- **A** Hyacinth 'Delft Blue' x 5
- **B** Tulip 'Rems Favourite' x 10
- **C** Tulip 'Purple Dream' x 10
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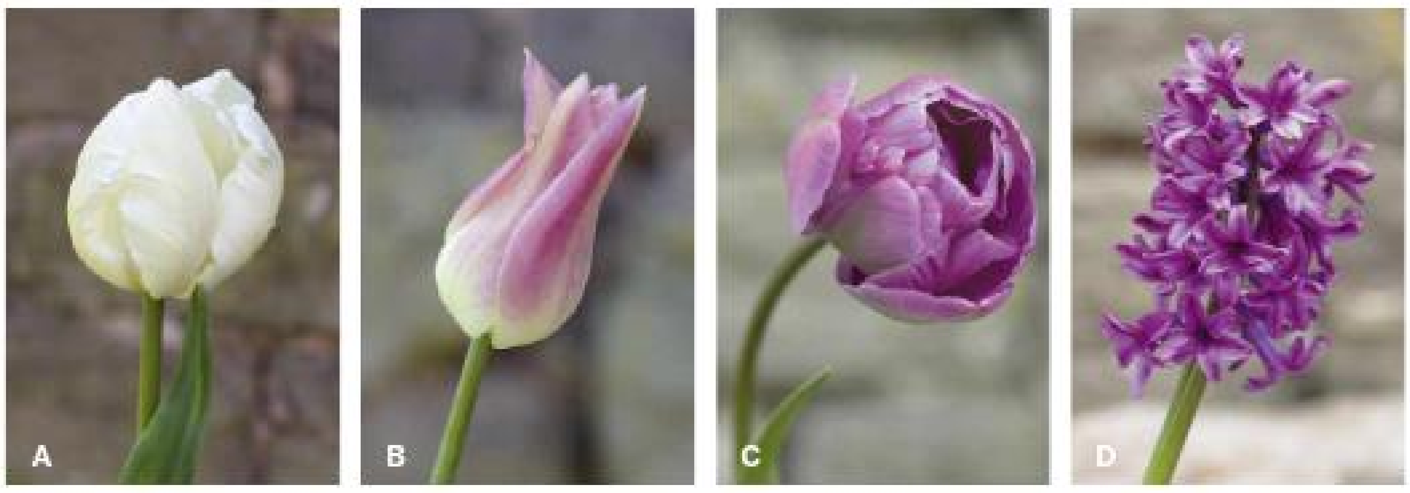

- **A** Tulip 'White Parrot' x 10
- **B** Tulip 'Elegant Lady' x 10
- **C** Tulip 'Blue Diamond' x 10
- **D** Hyacinth 'Purple Sensation' x 5

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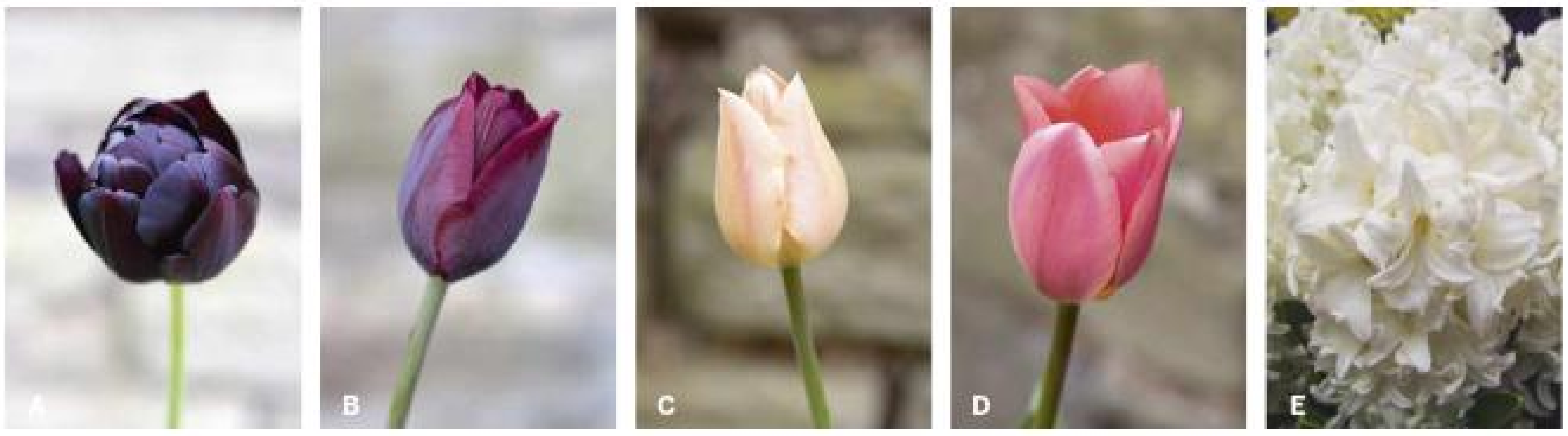

- **A** Tulip 'Black Hero' x 10
- **B** Tulip 'Ronaldo' x 10
- **C** Tulip 'Apricot Beauty' x 10
- **D** Tulip 'Albert Heijn' x 10
- **E** Hyacinth 'Aiolos' x 5

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LE PARFAIT IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING BY NIKI GOSS

Offer two

20% off Le Parfait

New preserving jar range from Le Parfait

As autumn approaches now is the time to make the most of your garden harvest and hedgerow foraging by preserving and pickling what you can. French company Le Parfait is over 80 years old and its range of glass preserving jars, embossed with the company logo are iconic, provide both the practical means to keeping food preserved and also the style to make them look good in your kitchen, or when given as a gift.

New to the range is the Orange Screw Top Jars. Available in 1 litre, 2 litre or 3 litre size with gently curved sides, the distinctive orange cap makes these jars perfect for recipes that do not require heat treatment, pickles for example, or as convenient storage jars. Alternatively the jars also fit the metal lids from the Familia Wiss range meaning that the same jars can also be used for recipes that do require heat treatment; jams and cordials for example.

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED readers can get a 20% discount on the new Orange Screw Top Jars.

HOW TO ORDER

Go to leparfait.co.uk and make your order from the Orange Screw Top range of jars. When prompted use the code 'LPGARDEN2013' to gain your discount.

Offer closes: 31 October 2013.
Open to UK customers only. Offer excludes delivery. Discount only valid on Orange Screw Top range.

Letters

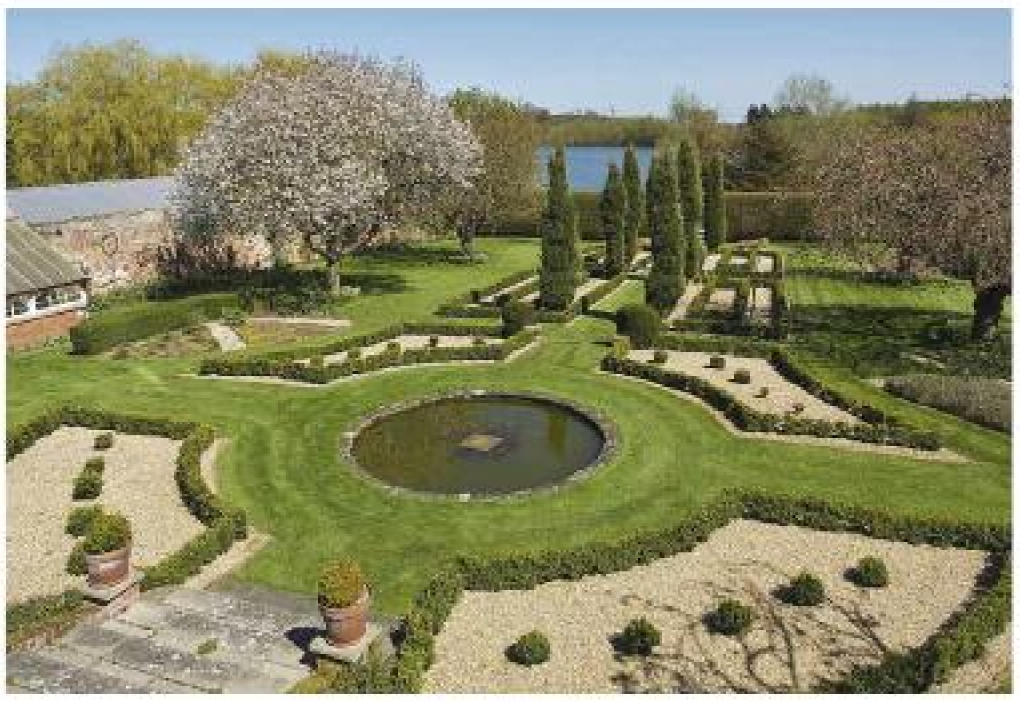
Have your say – we'd like to hear your views, so please write to us at: GARDENS ILLUSTRATED, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN, or email letters@gardensillustrated.com

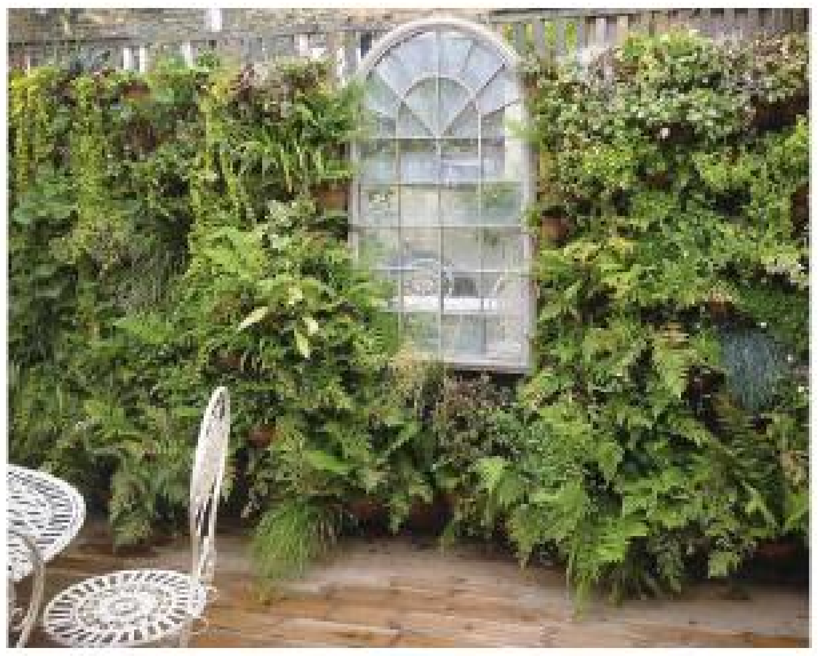
Star letter

New look

When my arthritis became so bad I could no longer deal with our mixed borders, GARDENS ILLUSTRATED gave us the idea of how to resolve the problem. Your features on French and Italian Gardens helped me plan the layout as it is now [pictured]. I hope other readers will realise getting old doesn't mean giving up on enjoying a beautiful garden.

Annie Eaves, by email





GARDEN FEATURE

Green with envy

I wanted to send you a picture of the living wall [above] that my mother-in-law has made in our small London garden. It's totally amazing, and even has an automatic water system wired into it too.

Marcus Stewart, Battersea

ED'S REPLY: Fabulous. We'd love to hear any tips she could offer other readers with small gardens.

INSPIRATION

Pastures new

Well done to GARDENS ILLUSTRATED for your excellent selection of gardens in September [issue 201]. I was already familiar with Dove Cottage and Great Comp, but Osterley Park was a new one to me. So I made the journey south to see the 'riotous colour' in the potager and was not disappointed. Well done to all concerned but especially the National Trust for giving the head gardener at Osterley the freedom to do his own thing. We need magazines to focus our attention on new developments and excellent gardens, so please keep up your quest for top-quality gardens wherever they may be.

Ian Salter, Leeds

ED'S REPLY: Great to hear the feature encouraged you to visit such a beautiful garden.

DEBATE

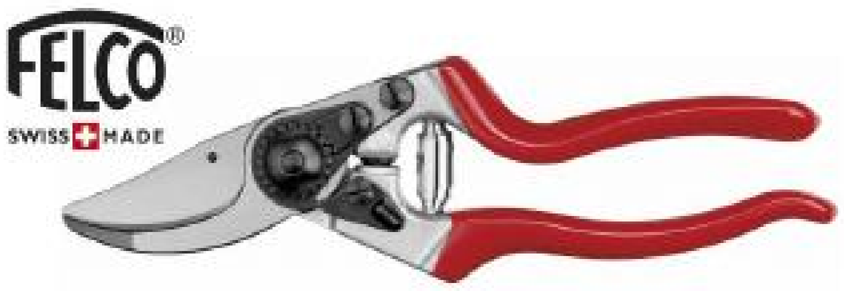
Chemical free

I was so pleased to see Alys Fowler's talking point, in the September issue and wholeheartedly agree with her. My garden of nine years has never seen a chemical and during the warm weather my buddlejas were a vision of fluttering beauty, with literally hundreds of butterflies. Roll on the day when garden-centre shelves are no longer stocked with grim looking killers.

Liz Faulkner, Dumfreis

WRITE TO US & WIN

The star letter wins a pair of Felco secateurs, offering superior cutting ability and ease of use. Choose between the ergonomically designed No 8 for larger hands or No 6 for smaller, both worth £59.99. For details of Felco's full range go to felco.com



TALKING POINT

Nicole Collomb urges us to demand more green spaces in new housing developments

Nicole Collomb is an adviser to the Landscape Institute, which aims to enhance the natural and built environment.

Our homes are rooted in communities, and the building blocks of those communities – the streets, the parks, the play areas – are put in place by house builders. The best understand that investing in a well-designed landscape pays dividends, making good business sense as well as sustainable places to live.

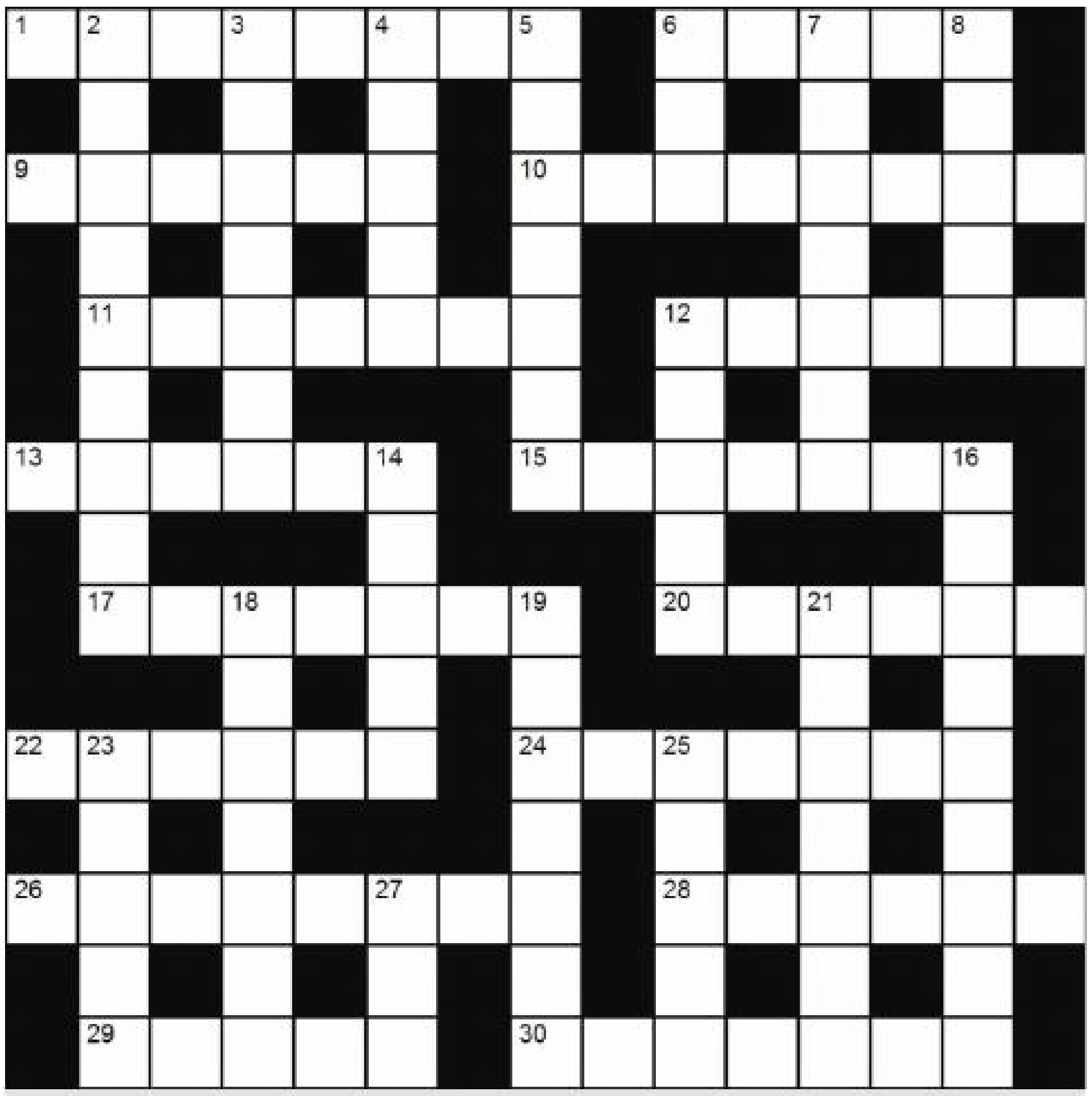
Three cheers then for the country's largest house builder, Barratt Homes, which is working with the RHS to get new homeowners gardening and improving local spaces. Unfortunately, the experience all too many of us have of new housing is of soulless estates at odds with their landscape. It's no surprise then that the government's push to address the housing shortage so often meets resistance at a local level.

Like anyone in the business of selling, house builders respond to customer demand. So, as consumers of new housing, if we want beautiful green places to live we must demand them.

- You can find the Landscape Institute's guidance on housing and landscape at landscapeinstitute.co.uk

- What's your view? Write to us by post or email (details above). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Crossword



ACROSS

1 Plant related to the lily – carelessly lop heads (8)

6 Droops in the garden with fatigue – that's irises for you! (5)

9 Taxonomic groupings – a green sort (6)

10 Genus of evergreen perennials aka 'Elephant's ears' – are being spoilt (8)

11 George, 20th-century lupin breeder (7)

12 As a *Pyracantha* is, troublesome! (6)

13 Herb *Conopodium majus* – fashioned gun tip (6)

15 Flavour of fennel – in part, organise edging (7)

17 Perennial of the *Saxifraga* family with heart-shaped leaves – all time fantastic! (7)

20 Smooth and shiny, like laurel leaves (6)

22 *Matthiola* plants once used to restrain petty felons! (6)

24 Frondy plant that, despite its name, doesn't grow on *Quercus* (3,4)

26 Garden ones a cause of heated exchanges between neighbours? (8)

28 Unrefined, like a man of the soil? (6)

29 A means of supporting part of robust *Rutaceae* (5)

30 Yearbooks of petunias, etc (7)

DOWN

2 Herb: asparagus tip, source of money (9)

3 Firms in soil around plant Helen is shifting (5,2)

4 Name of the finest red-flowered witch hazel… in *Actinidia*, nevertheless (5)

5 Small, blue-flowering annual – liable to break with nothing inside (7)

6 Evergreen tree – if turned over, right? (3)

7 Woodland flower among henbane, moneywort (7)

8 Plant shoot used for grafting to stock, with desired genes for duplication (5)

12 Securing part of honesty in garden (5)

14 Understands they're tree shoots? (5)

16 Shrub with heart-shaped leaves giving good autumn colour (9)

18 The devil of a flaming red *Crocosmia*! (7)

19 Genus of plant aka 'Mask flower' hidden by petal on soapwort (7)

21 'New Zealand holly', ___ *macrodonta* (7)

23 Garden implements? Sadly lost around start of October! (5)

25 Gardening expert, TV presenter provides some honeysuckle indoors (5)

27 Decay evident in *Protea* (3)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

SEPTEMBER'S SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Amorpha **5** Snaps **9** Shelter **10** Eddoes **11** Crosne **12** Whitefly **14** Scots pine **16** Isle **18** SSSI **19** Capillary **21** Spreader **23** Tartan **25** Captan **27** Aerated **28** Typha **29** Clarkia.

DOWN: 2 Moss roses **3** Reeds **4** Hotbeds **5** Sterile **6** And **7** Smell **8** Crown Imperial **13** Erica **15** Olive **17** Leylandii **19** Cydonia **20** Lateral **22** Plant **24** Rotor **26** Tip.

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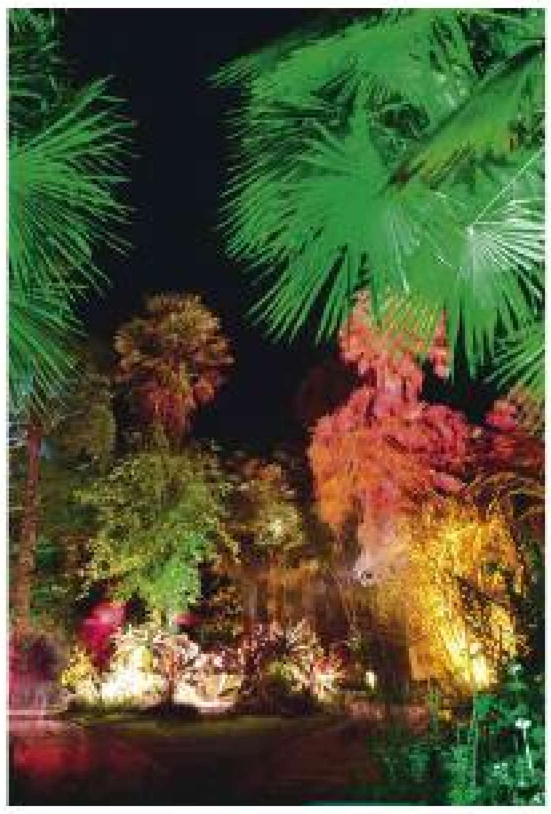

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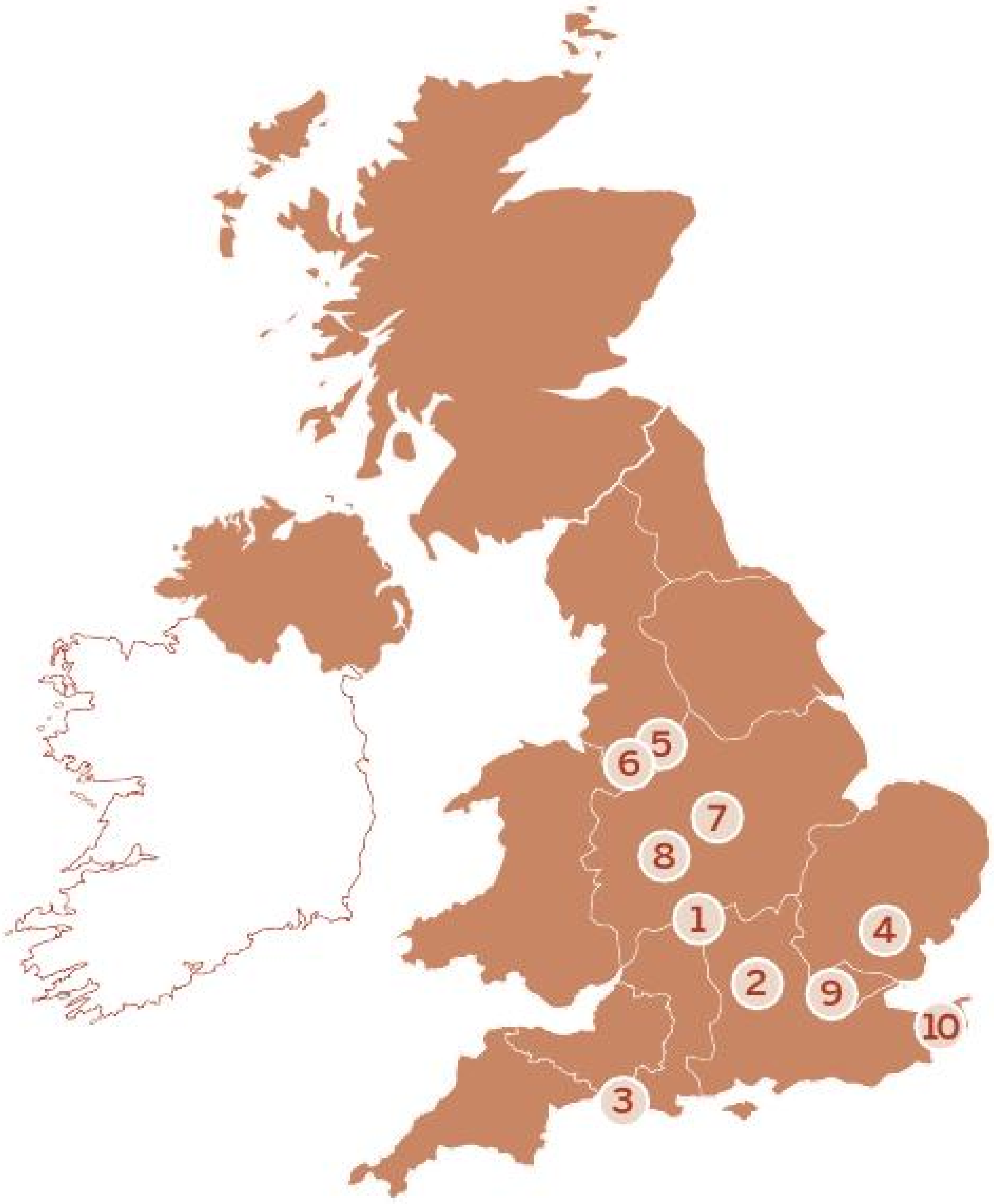

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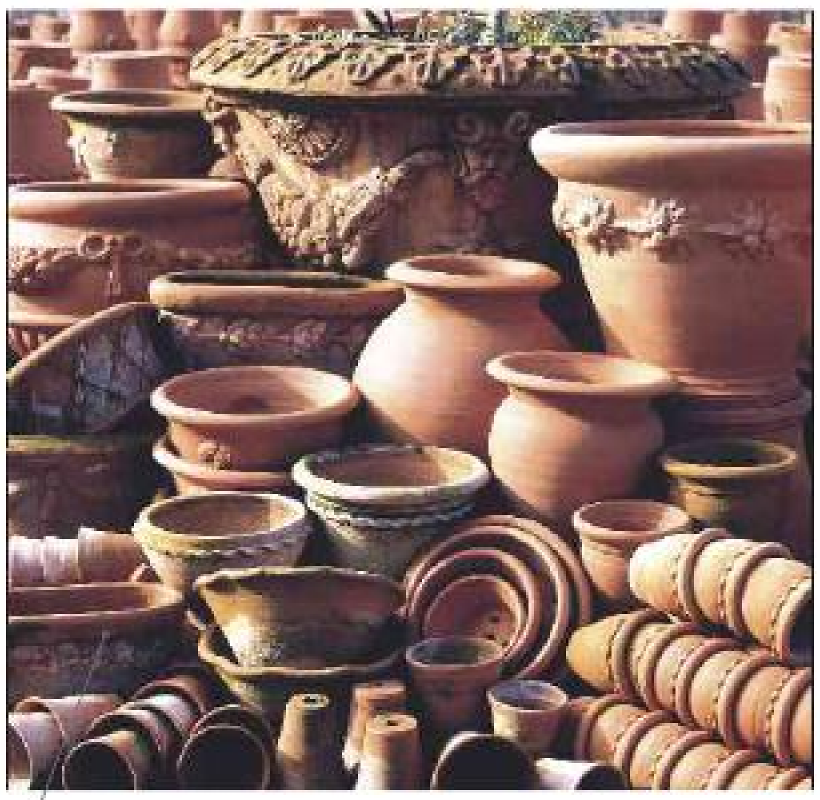

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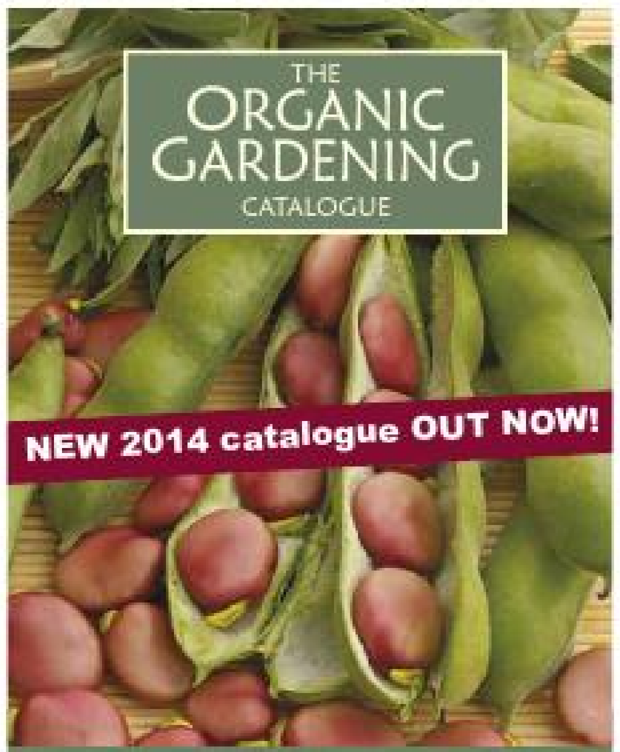

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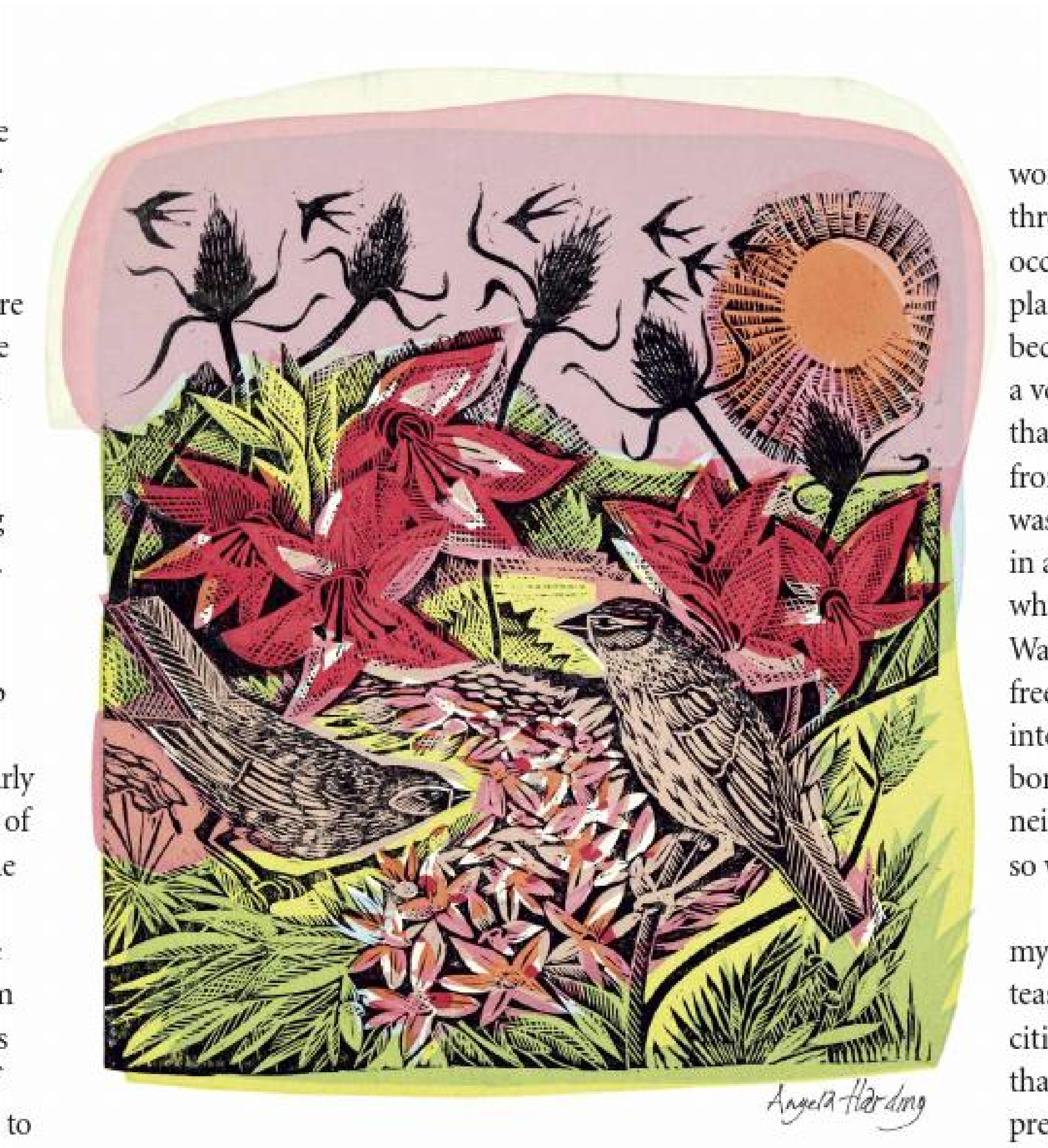
CLAIRE TAKACS

Bed thugs

Our columnist is becoming more accepting of the unsavoury squatters in his borders

WORDS FRANK RONAN ILLUSTRATION ANGELA HARDING



It is harder to love a plant that would love anyone than a plant that loves no one

Someone, scanning the long border the other day, said, "You have a lot of thugs in there." It was meant as a criticism. We were looking at a particularly fine patch of teasels and hogweed which, to a casual observer, might have given the impression that I was sparing the rod. Well I had been a bit. There was a lot of travelling this summer and, though I had engaged a person to keep on top of the hogweed while I was away, he had spectacularly vanished within five minutes of our first departure, leaving the back door open and his best boots in the shed, never to be seen again. So the return from Iceland at the end of May was greeted by a face-high wall of greenery, and not much time to hack my way through it before setting off on the next trip.

By the middle of July and the end of trip three things were getting seriously out of hand. Smaller beds that can be sorted out in a day or two were being kept just this side of respectable, but that long border is a week's work and tends to be put off until there is a clear week to tackle it. It was beginning to be apparent that it should be divided into perhaps four sections that might be more manageable, if it could be done without diminishing the scale of the whole thing. Meantime the thug observation was made and, since it could not be rebutted, had to be acknowledged.

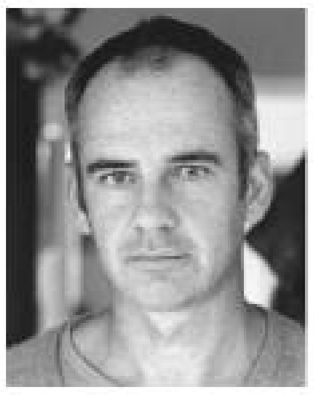
"Yes," I said, "but not enough. More thuggery is what we need in there." The intention of the response might have been defensive, but as soon as it was out I knew that it was true. The parts of the border that were holding up were the parts that were dominated by thugs. *Inula magnifica* at the west end swamping all interlopers, *Persicaria wallichii* in the middle straining at its barrier and frequently breaching it, *Euphorbia griffithii* inbetween clamping the ground with feet of iron.

Contemplating this, and wondering what else I could throw into the bear pit, it occurred to me that there were plants I was holding back on because of their thuggishness: a very nice herbaceous elder that I brought back as seed from the Kaçkar, and which was languishing out of sight in a plastic tub for fear of what it might do once released. Was this the moment to set free the Kraken? It did not fit into my idea of what this border should look like, but neither did the sight before me, so what was there to lose?

Interrupting the thought, my accuser said, "Too many teasels." Despite his tact in citing the teasels rather than the hogweed, I was not prepared to admit two flaws in a row. He might at least have punctuated his criticisms by noticing the very beautiful and rare form of purple *Roscoea* at his feet or the increasing colony of *Gladiolus cardinalis* to his right. "They are there," I drew myself a haughty inch taller, "temporarily, to protect the white martagons until the *Sciadopitys* is big enough to shade them."

A worthy opponent would, immediately, have laughed at my idiocy in planting martagons beneath a conifer so slow that future generations might still be allowing teasels there for shade, but this one merely narrowed his eyes in the direction of the *griffithii* and drawled, "Do you like that *Euphorbia*?"

"Obviously," I snapped. I was trying to harden my heart and not think of all the small and delicate and cherished, and sometimes expensive, things that had lived brief and unfulfilling lives in the space now trampled by the spurge. It is harder to love a thug than to love a plant that is demure. Harder to love a plant that would love anyone than a plant that loves no one and you hope will only love you. But sometimes we must be pragmatic and come to love what is. □



Frank Ronan is a novelist who lives and gardens in Worcestershire

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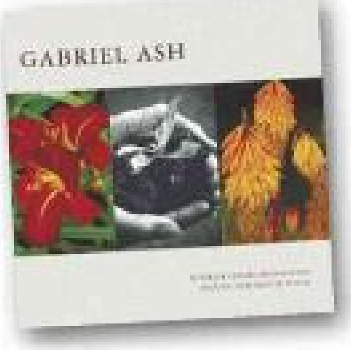

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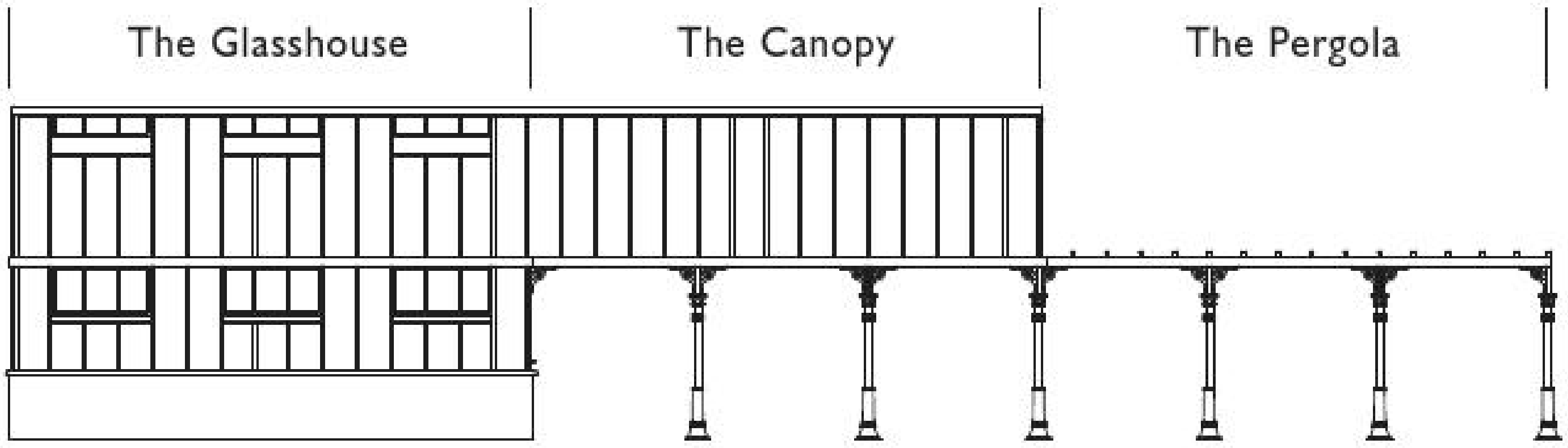

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